FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 JANUARY 1984

Lebanon

Israeli Air Raid — Israeli Air Force planes attacked two bases in the Ba'labakk area housing "terrorists" linked to Iran, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio early on 4 January. All the Israeli planes returned safely, he said, and the pilots reported "good hits" on their targets. Beirut radio reported that 50 people were killed and 300 were wounded in the raid, while Voice of Lebanon radio cited Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri as stating that 73 people were killed.

A Syrian military spokesman cited by SANA accused the Israelis of using delayed-action bombs and claimed that Syrian air defenses "confronted" the attacking aircraft and drove them away. The previous day a military spokesman had likewise asserted in a statement broadcast by Damascus radio that Syrian air defenses confronted and forced away Israeli planes which raided Lebanese nationalist positions in Bhamdun.

Security Plan — Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan announced in remarks reported by Beirut radio that the Lebanese Government has "finally approved" the security plan aimed at consolidating the cease-fire. Amal Movement leader Birri affirmed that the plan has the approval of both the National Salvation Front and the Amal, the radio noted.

Israeli Plan for South — The Israeli defense minister and chief of staff will present the Cabinet a plan to reduce the IDF presence in southern Lebanon by giving greater control over security matters to local forces backed by Israel, according to reports in *MA'ARIV* and *HA'ARETZ*. The plan calls for the IDF deployment in strategic locations that would ensure a secure northern border while limiting friction with the local urban population, *MA'ARIV* revealed. Senior officials in Jerusalem have given up the principle that the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon should be conditional on the simultaneous evacuation of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, the paper added.

As for "free Lebanon" commander Major Sa'd Haddad, both Jerusalem and Marj 'Uyun Voice of Hope radios confirmed that he is critically ill with cancer.

Tunisia

President Habib Bourguiba proclaimed a state of emergency, banned demonstrations, and introduced a curfew, Tunis radio reported. Public gatherings of more than three people are banned until further notice and security forces are authorized to use arms against anyone who refuses to halt when challenged. Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali said the extraordinary measures are designed to combat "sabotage, looting, and burning," which he blamed on a group of "vagabonds" followed by "misled youths," according to the radio.

Meanwhile, Education Ministry communiques broadcast by the radio announced the closure of all schools and colleges and an Interior Ministry communique urged citizens to remain calm and keep their children off the streets, thereby helping the security forces which have been deployed in "sensitive" areas.

Reporting on the situation in Tunis, Paris radio said the capital was calm after tanks and tear gas were used to quell violent student demonstrations in which some people may have died. The radio cited a provisional toll of 20 people killed in the rioting throughout the country, which was sparked by an increase in the price of bread. Tunis radio stressed that the withdrawal of grain subsidies has been accompanied by the introduction of measures to benefit the poor and needy.

Syria

Iranian Assistant Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam arrived in Damascus with a message for President Hafiz al-Asad on the forthcoming Islamic summit and other topics, Damascus radio reported. The Iranian envoy will subsequently deliver messages to Libyan and Algerian leaders, according to Tehran radio.

PLO Affairs

The PLO Executive Committee will meet soon in Tunis, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan announced in remarks reported by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio after a lengthy round of Fatah Central Committee meetings in the Tunisian capital. Al-Hasan stated that the Central Committee deliberations were characterized by "absolute frankness" but denied that any comprehensive agreement was reached, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Fatah sources cited by the Ash-Shariqah papers *AL-KHALIJ* and *AL-ITTIHAD* disclosed that a majority of Central Committee members opposed PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Cairo, according to WAKH and WAM.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egyptian Envoy's Tour — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz, who conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak on ways to develop the "strong relations between the two fraternal countries" and on Arab affairs, INA reported. Before visiting Baghdad, Al-Baz had delivered a message from Mubarak to King Husayn, according to Amman radio.

Saudi-Libyan Contact — Saudi King Fahd received Libyan People's Assembly Secretary General Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab on 3 January, SPA noted.

Iraq

Saddam Husayn and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani reached a comprehensive agreement last month ending years of conflict between the government and movement, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing a diplomatic source in Baghdad. The agreement provides for a cease-fire in Iraqi Kurdistan, expansion of autonomy through free elections to local councils, establishment of a Kurdish army to defend "against foreign enemies," and financial assistance from the central government, the source disclosed.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian air defenses downed another Sukhoy-22 in the southern sector on 2 January, bringing the total number of Iraqi aircraft downed that day to three, an Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio asserted.

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Fatah Central Committee Extends Meetings

Fourth Meeting Held

LD031514 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee, the largest Palestinian resistance group, has decided to extend the period of its meetings devoted to the study of current political stances on and developments in the Palestinian question. Committee member Khalid al-Hasan said that it had been decided to hold a fourth meeting this evening for the Committee to continue to debate the statement drawn up by a three-member committee to explain the Fatah movement's stance on various current political, Palestinian, Arab and international issues.

Al-Hasan Cited

JN031540 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] In Tunis, Khalid al-Hasan, a member of the Fatah Central Committee and chairman of the PNC's Foreign Relations Committee, has stated that the Fatah Central Committee's deliberations have been characterized by absolute frankness and a desire to reach a consensus. Al-Hasan denied that a comprehensive agreement had been reached during these meetings. He also completely ruled out that Fatah would ask 'Arafat to resign.

Majority Opposes Cairo Visit

GF031430 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Ash-Shariqah, 3 Jan (WAM) — In a report from Tunis, the newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* quotes sources close to the Fatah Central Committee that a big majority in the Central Committee has adopted a stand opposing the visit 'Arafat made to Cairo and his meeting with President Mubarak and that this issue was the only topic of discussion during the intensive debate of the Central Committee during the past 3 days.

Quoting a Fatah source, the newspaper reports that Fatah is passing a serious turning point and that 10 central committee members opposed Yasir 'Arafat "although Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, adopted a less strong stand." Despite all of this, views favored the idea of forming a three-man committee to formulate the statement on the meetings.

Quoting responsible Palestinian sources, *AL-ITTIHAD* reports that this three-man committee is being strongly pressured by Fatah cadres which have been irritated by 'Arafat's new moves and these cadres are calling for an equivocal rejection of his Cairo visit and its result and to consider it a purely unilateral action which warrants denunciation and condemnation. The paper adds that 'Arafat is strongly resisting this move and that during the heated debates, he "insisted on his stand even if this would cost him his political status," although at the same time he does not object to the issuing of a statement affirming his rejection of the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan and his adherence to the collective leadership.

Executive Committee To Meet

LD032259 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee has concluded its meetings which began 3 days ago in Tunis under the leadership of the brother commander Abu 'Ammar. Brother Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Central committee of the movement, in a statement to TAP, said that the committee discussed a number of important issues, including preparations for a new PLO strategy after the Tripoli departure stage.

Brother Khalid al-Hasan said that the PLO Executive Committee will meet shortly in Tunis. Brother al-Hasan affirmed that most of the committee members are at present in Tunis and the other members are expected to arrive very soon.

'Positive Atmosphere' Cited

JN031713 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] In the presence of brother leader Abu 'Ammar, the Fatah Central Committee has concluded its meetings which began in Tunis 3 days ago. Our correspondent has learned that a positive atmosphere and high confidence prevailed during the committee's meetings. The 3-day discussions dealt with various affairs in the Palestinian arena, developments in the Palestine issue on different levels, the program of Palestinian action in the coming stage, the results of the battle of steadfastness and challenge in vigilant Tripoli, and the significance of defeating the Syrian-Libyan plot, which was aimed against independent Palestinian national decisionmaking and the historical Palestinian legitimacy.

Palestinian Delegation To Arrive in Tunis Soon

JN040844 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jan 84 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman — It has been learned from an informed Palestinian source that the four-member committee delegation that will hold a dialogue with the Fatah Central Committee and which comprises Abu 'Ali Mustafa (Az-Zabadi) from the PFLP; Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh from the Democratic Front for the Lebanese of Palestine; Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front; and a representative of the Palestinian Communist Party is expected to arrive in Tunis within 24 hours.

This move is the result of the efforts of PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi to bolster the dialogue in order to safeguard the unity of the Palestinian forces that denounced fratricide and defended the Palestinian legitimacy, independent Palestinian decisonmaking, and the PLO's unity. It is expected that the Fatah Central Committee statement will have an important impact on the dialogue between this delegation and Fatah, and that a PLO Executive Committee meeting will take place after this meeting.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Action in Occupied Territories

GF031310 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 3 Jan (WAKH) — Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has ascertained that northern Lebanon is not the end of the revolution or of the PLO.

In an interview with the UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* published today, he said that the revolution has to begin a comprehensive military, political and organizational review of all the Palestinian resistance situations including its relations in the occupied territories "in addition to all the Arab areas where it took refuge and where it was dispersed in order to affect changes in the forms and the styles of the armed, political and mass actions in the occupied Palestinian territories." He went on to say that "the basic and permanent base of the Palestinian revolution is in the occupied territories and among the ranks of the Palestinian people who live under the occupation." He stressed that the Palestinian revolution — after being denied its (?freedom) — will be able to use its heavy artillery against the enemy forces.

Hawatimah continued: "We are currently confronting a mammoth challenge which obliges us to develop our situations in the occupied territories and to build up the bases for our military action, where the occupied territories become the bases for the confrontation of the occupation forces instead of the bases in the neighboring Arab countries." He added that this entails unification of all the democratic and national powers and the leaders in the occupied territories in the framework of a unified national front that constitutes the major elements of the daily struggle.

Hawatimah called for series of expanded purging operations within the PLO ranks to include the military, administrative, political and diplomatic bodies. He pointed out that throughout the massacres, the Palestinian people are realizing, more than ever, that without the revolution and without the PLO they are orphans in this world where the operations of annihilation multiply either through bloody or political methods and that is why the past 18 years proved that these people cannot be annihilated nor can the Middle East issue be solved by ignoring the Palestinian people and the PLO, their legitimate representative.

On relations with Egypt, Hawatimah stressed the commitment of the DFLP to the resolutions of the PNC sessions held in Algiers last year and in which the PNC unanimously defined its position which states that relations with the Egyptian regime are proportional to the size of its dissociation from Camp David accords.

He also called for normalization of relations with Jordan, basing it on the PNC, Arab summit and UN resolutions that deal in particular with the Palestinian issue since 1974 in the framework of having the PLO as the sole and the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He also called for restoration of bridges of contracts between the PLO and Syria on democratic and sound bases favoring joint struggle against the joint Israeli enemy.

Concluding his statement he asserted the oneness of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people and its right to adopt an independent national Palestinian decision.

'Arafat PLO Anniversary Speech on Current Topics

JN030915 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1628 GMT 2 Jan 83

["Text" of speech to the Palestinian and Arab people by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the 19th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution; date and place not stated — read by announcer]

[Text] O masses of our proud, sincere people inside and outside the usurped homeland; O our people; O my people's children, women and men; O comrades on our long path: Words and language seem incapable of describing the generosity and sacrifices of our faithful, determined people. When men disappeared and resources seemed too thin, our masses rushed to supply us with strength and hope to protect the revolution. Their generosity was spontaneous, pure, and free from any hypocrisy. Their spirit of living was as mighty as our masses whose might is referred to in the Holy Koran.

In many nations, particularly in the Third World, the leadership is an important element in the greatness of peoples. But our people are stronger than any leadership and firmer than all past and present leaders. Our people will remain as such when future leaderships assume their duties. The battles and confrontations in which our great people participated have proved the greatness of our people. These battles have enhanced their experience despite the tumultuous events. O our people, you have proved your greatness in your confrontation, revolution, challenges, generosity, and sacrifices. These are our people, the legendary men who record epic deeds in their battles against tyrants. The men, women, children, and old men will remain. The lives of the tyrants will be short. They will founder on our firm rock. Our people are like a great, blessed tree whose branches reach heaven and whose roots strike deep into the earth.

O our beloved people inside and outside the occupied homeland, in the West Bank, Gaza, the Galilee, the Negev; in the steadfast camps; in Al-Yarmuk, Al-Barid, Al-Baddawi, Beirut; in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan; and in the Palestinian diaspora: We are grateful to you. We send you greetings of love, pride, and sincerity. We pledge that our march will continue firmly and with strong determination toward Palestine and Jerusalem.

God hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs in return is the garden of paradise: They fight in His cause and slay and are slain. A promise binding on Him in truth through the law, the Gospel, and the Koran. And who is more faithful to his covenent than God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded. That is the achievement supreme. [Koran verse]

O my brothers and beloved; O my kinfolk inside our beloved land, Palestine; O proud masses; O great Arab masses; O our heroes in their trenches: We have started our 19th year of this great revolution, the revolution of 1 January 1965. It is the revolution of free will and independent decisionmaking; the revolution of miracles on the road to Palestine; the revolution of the believers' absolute faith; the revolution of free men on the road to liberation. A year full of fateful challenges and great vicissitudes on all levels has passed. During this year, plots reached sanquinary

proportions in an attempt to kill the revolution. They wanted to uproot the revolution.

During last year, great men and faithful fighters defended the revolution with determination, sincerity, and firmness. They fought against the plot and challenged all its ramifications in various ways. Their task was an uphill task; they performed unprecedented miracles in fighting the plotters and in facing the U.S.-Zionist plot to end the revolution and destroy the Palestinian hopes. Regrettably, some Arab sides joined these suspect, devilish plots with their military, political, and material weight to forge them and strike at the Palestinian legitimacy, control its independent decisionmaking and frameworks in order to use it as a card in cheap dealings in the region. At the beginning, the plot appeared in the guise of an agent Palestinian face devoid of will, conscience, and truth. This guise was called the dissidents and mutineers within our Fatah movement. The plot then grew and its serious dimensions appeared within the PLO. The plotters attempted to poison our people who rejected them.

When our people rejected the plots, the Arab sides, represented this time by the Syrian and Libyan regimes, became a bridgehead for the anti-Palestinian onslaught. These two regimes wanted to play their assigned role in this plot.

O our kinfolk and masses, our attempts to avoid this conflict and the confrontation were in vain. We have extended our hands in an attempt to open dialogue and achieve understanding and soldiarity, but the conspirators refused to listen to the voice of right and conscience, the voice of sentiment, logic, and the national and pan-Arab interests. Why? Because what is required in the deal with the United States is the head of the revolution. What is required is to terminate this revolution and to deal a blow to the will of the masses in order to kill the spirit of the revolutionary life of our Arab nation. This plot with its various ramifications has come at a time when the revolution and its heroic Lebanese allies have succeeded in launching an effective exhaustive war against the Zionist enemy behind its lines and inside our occupied land. The Zionist enemy's political and military commands had to admit this due to the revolutionary volcano that erupted during the great epic of Beirut. This revolutionary volcano has affected even Tel Aviv and Begin is now out of the way. This volcano still deeply affects the entire region. Events and incidents accumulated in Tripoli, the Arab and Muslim city with its faithful and struggler citizens, and around the camps of Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi where the conspriacy has become obvious and clear through the dual Arab-Israeli siege and the synchronized Arab-Israeli aggression, which lasted for 48 days against the PLO and its armed forces and the Lebanese masses which fought with us in this forward trench in defense of the Arab nation's existence in the fiercest and most tragic fateful battles.

All have competed to unveil their faces regarding this dual siege. They believed that this would be the last chapter of the tragic play that they have written and orchestrated. They also believed that it was the right time to ask for their share of the treacherous price at a time when modern and sophisticated weapons are accumulated but the guns are silent, and at a time when tanks move only to penetrate the Palestinian camps and strike at the struggler Arab cities. They did not realize that the giant revolution is very strong and that it is the diffuclt factor in the Middle East equation at all times and under all circumstances. They also did not realize that plots and incidents deepen the roots of the revolution. We are very proud, because the besieged revolution in Tripoli has released its hero prisoners from the enemies' jails during the most difficult and serious stages. These prisoners are enjoying the revolutionary warmth of our brothers in Algeria. This was the result of creative revolutionary capability. This revolution is not the result of a state of emergency or a mere coincidence in our region, but it is the will of life and right, it is the real belief in the pure origins of our struggler masses. These masses have been and are still the revolution's real strength. These masses are the shield that protects the revolution during difficult times. With these masses we have confronted the plot, and with this deep and lofty faith we have confronted the plotters. Despite the bitter departure from Tripoli — the departure which unfortunately came this time at the request of Arabs to complete what Begin and Sharon could not complete in Beirut and southern Lebanon — and the bitter and forcible evacuation of the revolution's forces from the mountains,Al-Biqa', and Ba'labakk, the revolution has emerged stronger despite its wounds. With these faithful masses, the revolution has made a shield to protect its will and defend its independent decisionmaking. Despite the fierce and violent battles, the revolution has emerged and achieved victory over the factors of weakness and overcome its difficulties which are due to the continuous revolutionary interactions in confronting the plots, conspiracies, and ordeals. These plots, conspiracies, and ordeals have never stopped throughout this long revolutionay march. They proved the cohesion and solidarity of our people and their rallying around the revolution to crown their faith, struggle, and deep belief.

O our kinfolk, brother hero fighters, and struggler masses: The battle of this year was the battle of the living conscience of the struggler sons of the revolution and our faithful and sincere revolutionary masses. Thus, the hero fighters of our revolution and our masses inside and outside our occupied land have strongly and faithfully defended their independent and national decisionmaking. These lofty masses have generously and willingly offered sacrifices and formed this shield which is the result of unity, sacrifice, and generosity. Therefore, it is our duty toward these faithful masses to take a conscientious, revolutionary, and sincere stand. Thus, we can understand our people's awareness in confronting the conspiracy and their rallying around the revolution to form a shield for it. It is our duty to give the masses the right and conscientious answer, because these masses have supported their revolution and their organization in its capacity as leader of its struggle. These masses have challenged tyrants and tyranny.

Our masses' support for their leaders and symbols was neither emotional nor sentimental. Through their great awareness and profound sincerity, our masses knew the various dimensions of the plot against their revolution. Our masses appreciate the various aspects of the political stand on the local, Arab, and international levels. Therefore, we ask: What have we prepared and realized for these masses and what do we have to offer our present and future generations? What can we offer our children for their future? What can we offer to Palestine, our homeland, at present and in the future? What can we offer our Arab nation during these bitter, difficult times?

O my beloved brothers, O our fighting, struggling masses: It is a great historic responsibility. It is a fateful responsibility not only for our Palestinian people but for the entire Arab nation. We are facing a complicated, intricate plot. It is the U.S.-Israeli plot within the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance and amid Arab weakness, hesitation, and silence.

It is regrettable that certain Arab sides have been involved in this plot. Their hands are immersed in the blood of Palestinian fighters. These Arab sides have killed free, honorable men in our Arab nation. They remorselessly violated the sanctity of Arab principles. They had no religious, pan-Arab, or moral values. They relied on secret deals with the Arab nation's enemies from which they could draw support and protection and fight honorable men in our region.

This plot is spreading in our region to remind us of the era of the petty Arab kings. The poison of the plot is spreading all over our region so as to balkanize and dominate it. Our fate in the Palestinian revolution, along with the noble and honorable Arab men, is to confront this plot. We are now in an advanced position of struggle, facing this plot. Our position reveals all trends, secrets, and unknown dealings. We are living in the period of struggle in our glorious history.

To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight because they are wronged — and verily God is most powerful for their aid. [Koran verse]

Therefore, the onslaught was fierce, the sacrifices were many, and the battles of honor continuous. Our fate was to defend our nation to prevent it from entering the dark era of the petty kings toward which the plot is pushing us and which is being drawn up by the plotters against our masses and future generations. We are proud because our fate is to confront this plot and its lackeys, the spoil-seekers who want to loot the blood of our masses, andhence, the importance of these sincere stands at every point of struggle by our people. In facing the plot, our great people have achieved a new miracle in struggle and in facing challenges. They were able to create a new unified stand of solidarity in the Arab homeland in order to unify the genuine and not the fake Arab forces. The unity is based on firm, clear principles which lead to pooling Arab resources in the interest of the Arab nation. This unity does not confuse the Arab nation with various fake outbiddings and empty slogans within the links and sectarian aims of the plot.

The Arab nation's homogeneous forces must be unified. These forces should aim to serve the supreme pan-Arab interests. They should be faithful to their land and should face the U.S. onslaught and the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation and fleets. They should face the petty kings and princes who are implementing the Israeli plot based on sectarian divisions. These princes and kings are seeking the help of the guns of the fleets that shell our Arab land. Under their own eyes, the enemy completes its plot and domination against our country. Here we must understand the significance of the weight of our Arab people in Egypt. It is our pan-Arab duty to benefit from this cultural weight because it is within our pan-Arab principles to do so. We must face the plot and stand against all our Arab nation's enemies — the Zionists, imperialists, agents, and petty kings. Are we up to the level of these challenges?

We must answer truthfully and with awareness so as not to deceive our masses during these fateful, historic days and at this decisive juncture in our revolution. We must say clearly that this handful of strugglers and these masses are the ones to make decisions. They have the will and the right thinking. They defend the national decisionmaking. Their credentials are the blood of the Palestinian children who sacrificed their lives for this noble aim.

Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenent with God. Of them some have completed their vow to the extreme and some still wait. But they have never changed their determination in the least. [Koran verse]

The Palestinian move was an embodiment of the creative mind amid events, tests, and battles. We have been able to move with ability within the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic group, the African states, the friendly socialist states, particularly the USSR, and the PRC. We made friends, appealed to brothers, and established soldiarity with our brother strugglers. This was clear in the New Delhi nonaligned conference, the Dhaka Islamic foreign ministers conference, and the Addis Ababa African summit. We established cooperation with our socialist friends in world forums. We mobilized our friends in Western Europe, including France. We thank France and its president because it protected our fighters when they were evacuated from Tripoli. We thank Egypt and its president for its participation in protecting our fighters. We thanks the United Nations because it raised its flags on the ships. We thank Italy because it extended facilities to transfer our wounded.

Here we must refer to the Saudi efforts and thank King Fahd and the Arab brothers who contributed to the cease-fire between Syria and the PLO in Tripoli. Here we must remember the Geneva international conference on the Palestinian problem, its important resolutions, and its declaration which was adopted by the UN General Assembly session. A new international initiative has started with the aim of promoting the Arab Fes peace plan. We must make use of the Soviet initiative and the Egyptian-French initiative at the UN Security Council. We will work on the right path on our road to Palestine in the next year, which is the year of revolutionary decision and independent decisionmaking. Therefore, we must exert our utmost to promote our people's resistance inside the occupied territories with all the means available to us, included the most important means — namely, armed struggle.

As we enter into our new year, we must thank our brothers in the Arab states who have played host to their brother fighters. We thank our brothers in both the Yemens, in Iraq, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan and Tunisian. Our men will stay there provisionally on their path of struggle and on the road to Palestine.

O our generous people, O comrades-in-arms in the Palestinian revolution: The U.S.-Israeli plot, hatched with Arab consent, was aimed to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and decisionmaking. It was aimed to destroy your organization's legitimate

institutions so as to liquidate our inalienable national rights. The fighters' steadfastness in facing this plot and our people's uprising inside and outside our occupied homeland have foiled the suspect plots and shattered the waves of plotting. Our people protected the revolution and upheld their organization and the leader of their struggle, the PLO. Our people enabled the PLO to protect its independent decisionmaking and inalienable national rights. The sincerity of our martyrs and our pledge to confront the plots and plotters will enable us to continue the struggle until we achieve our inalienable national rights. In this we are guided by our PNC decisions and by our commitment to its resolutions — namely, our right to return, to self-determination, and to establish our independent national state on our national soil because it is an unchanging goal of our struggle. All our moves on the Arab and international levels are aimed to mobilize more resources to realize these aims. Your revolution is facing this fierce U.S.-Israeli plot. It will continue its challenge to this plot and will confront all the liquidationist, conspiratorial plans which they want to impose on our people through the current battles against our revolution and organization. In this, they are being helped by some Arab hands.

Despite all this, we will continue our resistance to all these liquidationist plans, including the Reagan plan which expunges our people's rights and ignores our national aspirations. We will resist the autonomy plan which imposes a new type of slavery on us. Our struggle will continue for the sake of our Palestinian national cause and independent state and so that every Palestinian will be a citizen in this state. We will decide, out of our freewill, which we expressed at our PNC, to establish a confederation with Jordan or any Arab states that agrees to this.

O our people, our kinfolk, our brothers, O our fighters who are facing the suffering of occupation and the diaspora: Your revolution is continuing despite all the plots and plotters. It is the same pledge and the same vow. It is a pledge by the fighters to the fighters. It is a pledge to all our people inside and outside the occupied homeland. We vow that this march will continue and the torch of the revolution will remain on the long road to Palestine, to Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state. It is, God willing, a revolution until victory!

Fatah Council Expels Five Palestinian Officers

NC031951 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Jan (MENA) — The Fatah Information Bureau in Kuwait disclosed that it has received information from Tunis indicating that the higher Palestinian Military Council, meeting today under Yasir 'Arafat, decided to expel five Palestinian officers from the Military Council. The five officers are: Colonel Tariq al-Khadra, Colonel Muhammad Zahran, Colonel Sa'id Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan, and PLFP-GC representative Major Yusuf al-Bajuri. The Council decided to authorize the PLO Executive Committee chairman to take the necessary measures to terminate these officers' membership in the PNC and to prosecute them on charges of high treason due to their participation in the fighting against their revolution, people, and comrades-in-arms.

The Council listened to a briefing by Yasir 'Arafat on the Palestinian revolution's military and political situation. The Council was also briefed on the causes, results, and dimensions of Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with President Mubarak.

Baghdad PLO Radio on Gaza Strip Operations

JN031720 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] In a manner that challenges the enemy's precautions and security measures, our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland continue to further escalate their valiant operations against the Zionist occupation forces. Only 24 hours after our revolutionaries' operations in the Nabulus and Balatah camps, our revolutionary heroes attacked a Zionist military patrol in the Jabalyah camp in the occupied Gaza Strip using incendiary bombs. The attack caused numerous casualties among the occupation soldiers. The enemy forces cordoned off the operational theater and began clearing the area in a search for our valiant revolutionaries, who managed to withdraw safely to base.

PFLP Says FRG Responsible for Prison Deaths

JN031903 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The PFLP today held the FRG Government responsible for the death of six detainees in FRG prisons. One Palestinian and one Lebanese were among the detainees.

In Damascus, Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the PFLP Political Bureau, explained that these prisoners were burned to death in the FRG prisons, and that the Bonn authorities are responsible for this crime, which will not pass unpunished, as he put it. Police sources in Bonn had explained that the six detainees, who were soon to be deported from the FRG, died when some of them set a fire in the dungeons of (?Spiglib) prison in the FRG on the New Year's Eve.

Report for 1982 Shows Collective Deficit
LD310738 Kuwait KUNA in English 1349 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Vienna, Dec 30 (KUNA) — The acting head of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Dr. Fadhil al-Chalibi has said that the OPEC oil production declined by 16 percent in 1982 compared with 1981, while OPEC oil exports declined by a further 22.7 percent.

In a foreward written for the OPEC annual report for 1982 released here recently, Dr. Chalibi said that the OPEC member states experienced, for the first time since the 1960's, a collective current account deficit which could, according to most recent estimates by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reach as high as 13 billion dollars this year.

The acting head of the OPEC said that since the start of the current decade, the international economic scene has shown depressingly little sign of improvement, and added that the OPEC annual report for 1982 reflects the impact which the continuing recession with all its undesirable features has on the demand for oil.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Countries Hope To Form Common Market

GF040531 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 4 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Gulf Co-operation Council states may be able to form a common market within the next five years, said Saudi Arabia's Finance Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl yesterday.

He told the newly published magazine *GULF CO-OPERATION* that the joint move was "the final point we are planning to achieve".

Mr Al-Khayl said he hoped GCC states would learn from the experiment of the European Common Market. He believed the Gulf's unified economic agreement could be fully operative within five years.

"We will realize this objective through improved production and adequate co-ordination," the Cyprus-based magazine quoted the minister as saying.

He stressed that the plan for economic integration between the Gulf states and the unified agreement for joint economic performance would be gradually implemented. Mr Al-Khayl laid emphasis on the role which the private sector in the Gulf would play in realizing economic integration.

Asked about Saudi Arabia's development progress, he said great efforts were currently being made to export petrochemical products.

The Kingdom was also pushing forward plans for investment in fields of industry, agriculture and general services.

Asked on plans to reduce the foreign labour force, the minister said the need for such manpower still existed.

QATAR

Lebanon Radio Told of Planned Coup Attempt

NC021923 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources have revealed to the Voice of Lebanon that there was a plot concocted to overthrow Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani in Qatar.

The Qatari Security Forces have discovered a number of weapons, including SAM-7's. Competent organs detained 12 persons who represent most of the ring members and they confessed to their collaboration with the Libyan intelligence. They were planning to carry out their plan on 7 November 83, during a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

It was known that many weapons were smuggled through Tripoli port in Lebanon across the Syrian borders to Qatar, as well as some other Gulf countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

YAR Foreign Minister Arrives in Riyadh

GF031642 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] YAR Foreign Minister Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi arrived in Riyadh today on a visit to the Kingdom.

He was welcomed by Ibrahim al-'Anqari, minister of municipal and rural affairs, as well as a number of other officials.

In a statement to SPA upon his arrival, Dr Al-Asbahi said that he is carrying a message to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih regarding bilateral relations, the current Arab and international issues, coordination between the two countries on dealing with these issues, and the recent incidents in the Arab and international arenas that favor the general interests of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Meeting With King Fahd

LD031958 Riyadh SPA in English 1937 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Jan 3 (SPA) — HM King Fahd received here tonight North Yemen's Foreign Minister Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi.

The royal audience was attended by Yemeni ambassador to the Kingdom Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhayni.

King Fahd Receives Libyan Assembly Leader

Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1442 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Jan (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd Al-'Aziz received in his office at the royal court today the secretary general of the Libyan People's Assembly, Muhammad az-Zarrqu Rajab.

The Libyan official arrived in Riyadh earlier today.

Reportage on Congressional Delegation Visit

See Mubarak 4 Jan

NC041004 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received John Tower, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and his accompanying delegation, at 'Urubah Palace. Nichalos Veliotes, U.S. ambassador to Cairo, also attended the meeting. Tower arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 2-day visit as part of a tour that will take him to Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Congressmen Cited on Meeting

NC041046 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — Following his meeting this morning with President Mubarak, John Tower, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that his talks with President Mubarak were useful and frank.

Tower said: We appreciate the Egyptian-U.S. friendship and value the leadership of President Mubarak.

Asked whether the United States is considering taking a balanced stand in the coming years regarding military aid to Egypt and Israel, Tower said: As congressmen, we do not discuss administrative issues. Personally, I treasure the Egyptian-U.S. friendship and think that we must do our best to promote it.

When asked about the countries which the U.S. delegation will visit following its stay in Egypt, and the subjects it will discuss, Tower said: We can talk about that at the end of the tour.

On whether President Mubarak introduced new ideas during the meeting, Tower said: We listened to useful ideas from the President. He also declined comment on the prospects for Jordanian King Husayn's participation in the peace process.

Meanwhile, Senator Warner, a member of the Congressional delegation, said that the meeting with President Mubarak covered all subjects, particularly relations between Egypt, the United States, and the countries of the region.

Italian Defense Minister Arrives 31 Dec

NC311236 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA) — Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini arrived in Cairo at noon today following a 1-day visit to Beirut, during which he inspected the Italian contingent participating in the Multinational Force and met with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. Spadolini is scheduled to go to Sharm Ash-Shaykh to pass the day with the Italian force and will leave for Lebanon in the evening to spend new year eve with the Italian force there. Spadolini was received and seen off at the airport [in Cairo] by the commander of the central area.

Mubarak Interviewed by Kuwaiti Editors on Policy

GF301130 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 29-30 Dec 83 pp 5, 6, 7

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by editors-in-chief of Kuwaiti daily newspapers in Cairo — date not given]

[Text] Question: Sir, what did you mean when you said that PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt when he left Tripoli was right? Were you referring to the Camp David accords or did you mean Egypt's behaviour was right?

Answer: Of course, Egypt is right to do anything to solve the Palestinian question. In Egypt we are doing our best to reach a fair, inclusive settlement in the area, but we do not want to see superpower domination. We want balanced relations with the whole world, but we want to be able to make independent decisions without pressure.

I see that our behaviour is right. The Camp David accords are in two parts: The Israeli-Egyptian question and the Palestinian question. The Mina House talks were planned first, and at that time our brothers said they were not opposed to talks. The fight at Mina House was about the attendance of Jews under the Palestinian flag, but no-one attended the talks. After Mina House, came Camp David.

If we had remained silent, or just raised the traditional arguments, Sinai would not be restored to Egypt. Sinai was not to have been restored, because Israel was planning to build more settlements there. At the beginning of the negotiations Israel wanted to withdraw from 'Arish and Ras Muhammad and a few settlements, but it wanted to keep a third of Sinai.

I was cool and patient during the negotiations, and said that we respected the agreement signed with President Sadat, but that they should also respect their obligations. I promised not to make declarations during the Israeli pull-out preparations. They tried to force me to speak but I avoided this.

If we had not reached the Camp David accords, how could we have restored Egypt?

The second part of Camp David covers the Palestinian question. If we were serious about trying to settle the Palestinian question in order to free the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israeli occupation, then we would take a much stronger stand. Camp David is the only obligation on Israel since the dispute started.

We want to restore our lands, whether by Camp David or any other agreement. Israel wants to cancel the Camp David accords, and is hoping that we will cancel them so it will be free from its obligations.

Q: The Arab nation wants to know the truth. If you remain silent when you are the president of the biggest Arab state, then people will come up with their own explanations.

A. When I want to deal with another country, I should understand its strategy.

I refused to allow American companies to equip Ra's Binas, because under Egyptian law foreign firms are not allowed in the country. If you want me to build Ra's Binas, then give me a donation and I will do the work using Egyptian companies.

They told me that American law does not allow for this, and I put them straight on Egyptian law.

This year, the US wanted to give $50 million for a power and water desalination plant at Ra's Binas, on condition that Americans were used for the work. I told them that this was impossible. I agreed to store tanks and other equipment for the U.S. for the benefit of other Arab states, but on condition that the equipment should be maintained and supervised by Egyptians.

Q: Is anything being stored in Egypt at the moment?

A: No.

Q: After your talks with Yasir 'Arafat, Arab and foreign political observers said that 'Arafat is the loser and Husni Mubarak is the winner. They said you used this meeting in a bid to end differences and restore Egypt to the Arab League. Is Egypt ready to attend the next Arab summit if invited?

A: We are not looking at winners and losers, we are looking at the best interests of the Arab world.

'Arafat's ship passed through the Canal and Egyptian territory. He stopped in our lands and I met him, but I did not force this meeting.

If any Arab president comes through the Canal I will receive him, even if our political views differ. We should distinguish between political differences and personal relations, if we want to settle the problem which is destroying the Arab world.

Yasir 'Arafat, like the majority of the members of the PLO,was educated in Egypt. I do no see anything wrong in meeting Yasir 'Arafat.

I went to Saudi Arabia when the late King Khalid died, and I am prepared to go to any Arab state, so long as this does not create a crisis for that country.

Q: You helped protect 'Arafat when he left Tripoli by sea?

A: Of course I did. He is an Arab, and once I knew he would leave Tripoli by sea, then I did my best to protect him. It would have been a disaster if those fighters had been attacked at sea.

Our warships accompanied 'Arafat until he passed Jidda port, and the Egyptian fleet entered Jidda for supplies.

We are prepared to help any Arab who needs help. If I passed through Kuwait Airport and stopped there, will anyone oppose me?

On the question of attending the next Arab summit, we in Egypt are not opposed to this. Arab nations do not put conditions on each other to attend a summit. We take an objective view to do what is best for the Arab nation. The point is we need talks to create better understanding. Are you satisfied with the present Arab situation? This situation will destroy all of us, including Egypt.

We now need to be wise and logical. If we had used our heads, we would not have reached this present situation. It is not logical to turn your head when you see me at an international event, because that is what the enemy wants.

Q: Did you know in advance that 'Arafat would be passing through the Suez Canal or was it a surprise?

A: I knew the day before that 'Arafat was to pass through the Canal on his way to North Yemen. I sent a message to him saying I would be pleased to see him if he wanted to come. We were prepared to meet him, but we did not wish to embarrass him.

Only after his ships entered the Suez port did I know that he had disembarked during the night.

Q: Do you think 'Arafat's visit marks the start of the journey towards a comprehensive settlement?

A: I had not seen 'Arafat since 1977, though previously we used to exchange views and agreed to continue consultations without advance announcement. If we are to reach a solution to any problem then we must get together for consultations, and to exchange views even though our views may differ. We must overcome these differences and agree on our targets.

This is what other Arab countries do not realise, that if we united and presented a solid bloc, then no obstacle can stand in our way. We must join hands and work together.

Q: Which of the initiatives do you see as most appropriate, Reagan's, the Fes conference, or is there something else in mind?

A: Why do not need initiatives for 'Arafat's visit. We have good resolutions, such as that from Fes, but wonder who could implement the Fes resolutions.

In my opinion, the Reagan initiative is constructive, and I feel we should use what we have to make a solid beginning. We should not lose this opportunity.

The American elections take place next year, and Israel, even if she has to spend billions of dollars to create a suitable atmosphere for her interests, has a golden opportunity. Israel occupies southern Lebanon, but would be ready to withdraw if our brother Syrians withdrew. We would be pleased if Syria withdrew, because then Israel would be forced to follow suit.

The Arabs are preoccupied by the Syrian and Israeli occupation of south Lebanon, and to make matters worse, the internal Palestinian conflict has emerged.

Arabs are preoccupied with other matters, while the Israelis concentrate on building additional settlements. It is believed that they are determined to annex the Gaza Strip before the US

elections, while all we do is make accusations against each other. We are preoccupied with side issues. If we go on in this way, it is doubtful whether we will be able to recover part of the West Bank or Gaza Strip, because by then occupied Palestine will be covered with Jewish settlements, and world public opinion will then be against their removal. Israel will present a fait accompli, and in such a situation it will be very difficult to evict the people who built these settlements.

I believe that we should accept any initiative, which gives us a solid beginning before it is too late.

Q: On several occasions you have condemned the American-Israeli strategic pact. Do you believe this pact is directed against Egypt?

A: No, not just against Egypt but against all Arabs, and we informed President Reagan of this. But this accord is long established, so why make it public now? Is it because they are starting the American election year with high hopes?

Naturally, we shall be made responsible no matter what happens, and it will be too late for regrets if we remain split.

In the past the slogan of striking students was "unity is strength," and disunity makes us an easy target for anyone. In the long run, the Arabs themselves will be the losers.

Q: Do you think that 'Arafat benefitted from his visit to Egypt and his talks with you? Do you believe that a Palestinian government-in-exile will be established, and if so what form will it take?

A: 'Arafat is the best one to judge whether he benefitted from the visit. I cannot speak on behalf of anyone else.

The Palestinian government-in-exile is a serious matter. I advocated this on two occasions, and I have heard a lot of talk and read reports in the world's newspapers about it. But the question remains whether those involved are taking the matter seriously or not. There are too many leaders, and until they come to an agreement on this, nothing can be predicted.

Several times such a government has been proclaimed by various leaders, but none was serious, and then we were told that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

I cannot predict whether a government-in-exile will be formed. We called for it, but no-one responded.

Q: The first part of the question was designed to seek yourviews on the meeting. When we meet 'Arafat we shall direct a similar question to him.

A: I believe that it was of benefit on the particular problem, and indeed believe that the whole area will benefit.

Q: In other words, will 'Arafat stand firm in the face of all Palestinian opposition or will he collapse. The opposition still exists, even though he has left the arena.

A: It is really regrettable to see Palestinians fighting each other. It would be impossible for 'Arafat to crush the opposition, and it is a sad fact that some other parties are benefitting from the situation.

In the interests of the Palestinians and all Arabs, they should lick their wounds and unite. If 'Arafat's visit here marked a new beginning then we bless the visit.

Q: Would 'Arafat stand firm in the face of opposition?

A: Why not, if logic prevails. Did not Egypt contribute to the Palestinian cause, without harm to any Palestinian? Egypt promoted the Palestinian cause at all international conventions, and strongly supports it in the UN. Name one convention in which Egypt was not the prime defender of the Palestinian cause. Our defence of it springs from our belief in the justice of the cause and our responsibility.

Q: Would the government-in-exile, if it is declared, be based in Egypt?

A: At the moment this is to be discounted. The PLO headquarters have never been based in Cairo, and if it is based elsewhere, it means we have a free hand to back the cause.

Q: In the past, several invitations to establish the government-in-exile in Cairo were issued.

A: True, I extended such an invitation once, when it would have been of benefit, but the invitation was turned down. Now it would be of no benefit. Why specifically in Egypt? Why not Kuwait or Tunisia, where they are now?

Q: Israel described 'Arafat's visit to Egypt as a violation of the Camp David accords. What do you say to this?

A: Israel considers everything — including the stomach ache of a Palestinian or other Arab — as a breach of Camp David. Let them say what they please.

America replied to the Israelis that it was none of their business and there was no contravention of any sort. In fact, Hughes, the U.S. spokesman, said that Israel would claim contravention for the least thing. Israel claimed that Egypt contravened Camp David when we withdrew our ambassador, even though such a move is considered an internal matter by all world protocols.

Q: Did the American Administration give any assurance to Egypt over the U.S.-Israeli strategic accord?

A: We were actually unaware of the provisions of the pact, but the Americans assured us it was not directed against the Arabs. This assurance was given verbally, without details, so we are patiently waiting to see what will happen.

Q: Are you satisfied with the assurance?

A: I cannot say I am, or that we trust the words of the big powers. A big power gives its assurance and we follow the

developments. If there is any deviation from the line announced, then we will stand against it.

Q: What discussions took place during your two-hour private meeting with 'Arafat?

A: We exchanged views on the current situation and the state of affairs in Lebanon. 'Arafat gave a detailed account of what has happened in north Lebanon, and how his forces were bombed, fired at and generally suffered. He told me he wished Syria would join hands with him to fight Israel.

I told him to be realistic and search for a solution instead of backing out. If things continue as they are, the whole cause will disappear, and we will turn to the alternative of the East Bank. On this point our views coincided.

We did not touch on Camp David as I avoided matters that could have proved embarrasing.

Q: Again we would like to return to Arab relations with Egypt, and its possible return to the Arab fold.

A: Normally I do not half discuss matters and leave things to be exaggerated, which could either be beneficial or harmful. But you must know the true facts of the matter ... let's be practical.

Q: People are eagerly awaiting your views. What do you see as the conditions and obstacles preventing the return of Egypt to the Arab ranks?

A: I disclosed the whole matter. No one can ask me to cancel the Camp David agreement, because no one can imagine the tragic results of this, not only for Egypt but for all Arab countries. The presence of the Israeli ambassador here, is the same as his presence in the U.S., Switzerland, or Britain. His presence coud be beneficial, because Arabs must face Israeli ambassadors or representatives at conventions. At least let us use contacts with Israel to get an idea of their plans.

Q: As an Arab confrontation country, Egypt has certain obligations to the Arab world and the Palestinian cause. Did you drop the military solution?

A: We are not a big power. We may have funds, but we lack armaments. The military solution will not be of any benefit. This is what Hafiz al-Asad said during As-Sadat's time. He said that military action was only a prelude to another solution, although this statement is now being denied.

Q: Do you believe in the military solution?

A: Perhaps you are conversant with the situation — the two superpowers possess the necessary armaments and potential to destroy Israel, but both guarantee Israel's interests. Even the Soviet Union is not willing to remove Israel.

Q: It is well known that the late President as-Sadat visited Israel in the face of Arab opposition, and gave concessions that Israel had never dreamed of. If you had been in his place, would you have made that visit and offered those concessions?

A: Everyone is different. I could have gone about things in a different way. But when As-Sadat went to Jerusalem against Arab pressure, would you have expected the Arabs to support him? He was prepared to shoulder the responsibility for the adventure. If no one supported him in his bid to restore his land and he did nothing about it, then that land would have become Israeli after a few years.

Now if you ask any Egyptian, he will tell you that the land has been restored, and he will try to restore the rest in time. But where are the so-called concessions? What are the concessions?

Q: I asked whether you would have gone to Jerusalem had you been in As-Sadat's place?

A: I did not even think of this at the time. I would have considered whether or not to go.

Q: But you did not go to Jerusalem?

A: No, I did not go. Even As-Sadat did not go after his first visit.

Q: One visit was enough?

Q: One visit proved to the world that he was a man who wanted peace. As-Sadat visited Jerusalem because of a dispute over the Geneva peace conference.

The dispute arose between Egypt and Syria over whether they should go to the conference as one delegation or separately. As-Sadat proposed separate delegations, but Syria disagreed. As-Sadat told Al-Asad that a united delegation could lead to dispute. But U.S. President Jimmy Carter wrote to As-Sadat asking him to accept the united delegation plan, which he agreed to do. But then Syria changed its mind wanting separate teams, and also raised a problem over all the delegations staying in one hotel.

Carter then wrote to As-Sadat again asking him to sort out all Arab differences. It was then that the visit plan came into As-Sadat's mind, and he announced that he was ready to go anywhere in the world, even to Israel.

Before visiting Israel he was in Romania, Iran, and passed through Saudi Arabia. Everyone thought he was coordinating arrangements for the visit, but he did not even tell Saudi Arabia of his plans. He wanted to bear the full responsibility of the plan himself.

Q: When As-Sadat announced the visit, you were in Algeria. Were you convinced that the visit was the right thing at that time?

A: I thought it was a good initiative, moving away from the traditional line. With the traditional ways, we would never have achieved anything. Everything was at a standstill. The Jews were planning to absorb one third of Sinai. Perhaps I would not have had the courage of As-Sadat to say that I was going to Jerusalem.

Q: Do you believe that the visit to Jerusalem was the only

solution. There were several ways by which he could have proved he wanted peace.

A: Initiatives such as what? That is easy to say.

Q: There was the Geneva conference in those days, as you have pointed out.

A: Nobody wanted to go to Geneva. If there had been a Geneva conference, As-Sadat would not have gone to Jerusalem at all. I went to President Hafiz al-Asad several times then on this issue, but no one wanted to go to Geneva.

Q: It is known that there are relations between Egypt and several Arab states, both official and otherwise. Is there any joint Arab-Egyptian initiative to restore relations?

A: We have special relations with the majority of Arab states, but these relations are not clear and we respect the will of these countries.

Q: Secret relations you mean?

A: They are not secret. There is contact and coordination, and we will carry on like this until the circumstances are right to restore relations. In Egypt we are not afraid of public relations with Arabs, but we do not want to create a critical situation for them.

Q: Do you see a barrier to an Arab desire to restore relations?

A: You create the barrier. You are afraid but we are not. You have your own situations, but I do not want to refer to it further.

Q: The most important point in the Camp David accords was the end of settlements despite the fact that settlements were being constructed even while the late President as-Sadat was in Camp David. Has the U.S. put any pressure on Israel to limit settlements?

A: As long as the Arab world is split, Israel will have the advantage. If the Arabs coordinated, we could make the U.S. put pressure on Israel. So long as we remain silent while the settlements are built and inhabitated by the immigrants the problem will remain. If we wait until next November, then it will be too late, the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be lost and it will be impossible to win public opinion.

Do you think it possible that public opinion will agree to the expulsion of Jewish settlers once the West Bank and Gaza Strip become full settlements?

Q: Why does the U.S. not stop Israel?

A: You know the Zionist lobby in the U.S. There should be a power to make the U.S. stop Israel. But what have we done on this issue?

Q: Will you attend the Islamic summit conference in Morocco?

A: If we are invited then we will attend.

Q: Do you think the explosions in Kuwait earlier this month were an isolated incident, or do they indicate future incidents in the Gulf and Arab Peninsula?

A: If we are not alert, then such incidents could spread to other place in the Arab Peninsula. This is a dangerous indication which we should be fully aware of. We are all Arabs, and consider such incidents as dangerous occurrences which could be repeated in any area of the Arab world. Arab awareness is the best form of security.

Q: Does Egypt intend to restore relations with the USSR?

A: I said before that the USSR is a great power, and the time will come to restore diplomatic relations. Nothing will stop us from restoring relations if the Soviets refrain from interfering in our internal affairs. They have an embassy in Cairo, but with no ambassador.

Q: What about military consultants in Egypt?

A: There were civilian, not military, experts in Egypt, but they left in January 1982.

Q: What form did USSR intervention in Egypt take?

A: They had an embassy in Cairo, but sold it to Bulgaria. It was working against the Egyptian regime, and we warned them against this. The USSR is a great state which cannot be ignored. Trade relations between us, which were once suspended, have now been restored and this can be considered as a step towards the return of diplomatic ties.

Q: What do you think the future of the PLO will be? Who will be defeated, 'Arafat, the legitimate leader and his group, or Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] and Ahmad Jibril?

A: We are committed to the Rabat summit, which said that the PLO is the legitimate representative and 'Arafat is the most moderate leader within the PLO. I want to tell them that they must unite or they will be the losers. There is no need for them to be split or to sell themselves to other regimes. This fragmentation does not serve the Palestinian cause at all. We have no answer for those who claim that more Palestinians are killed by other Arabs than by the Jews. They are right, and we must just try to avoid answering them.

Q: You said that 'Arafat contacted the Fatah Central Committee to obtain approval for his visit here. Our information indicates that the committee, while not objecting to the visit, wanted to meet him to discuss his departure from Tripoli. They told him to wait, as it was not necessary to visit Egypt immediately.

A: Which way did they want him to go then?

Q: He could have taken a plane from Larnaca, Cyprus had he wanted to avoid Egypt.

A: He told them that he was going by sea in passing Egypt. This is evident from the fact that the military committee met and supported 'Arafat and went to Aby Iyad [Salah Khalaf].

Q: What is important is that he came to Egypt and contacts between him and the Central Committee were cut off. He was then persuaded here by Nabil Sha'th of the Palestinian National Council and Usamah al-Baz (press adviser), and later was received by Egyptian prime minister, Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din.

A: No, we did not meet him, Palestinian brothers met him in Port Sa'id.

Q. It was Nabil Sha'th.

A: In fact, I do not know who met him. One of them was Sa'id Kamal (former PLO representative in Cairo who was suspended from the PLO after the As-Sadat peace treaty). They told him on the ship that some Palestinians wanted to meet him and he agreed.

The governor of Port Sa'id also went to see 'Arafat, for no other purpose than to congratulate him. They told 'Arafat that if he wanted to meet me then a plane would be available in Isma'iliyah the next day. Usamah al-Baz and Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din went to Isma'iliyah only after 'Arafat made his intentions clear. They welcomed him and accompanied him to Cairo.

No one tied him and forcibly dragged him here. I was very careful not to tell him to come, because I did not want to embarrass him or any other Arab leader.

Q: I would like to salute your sentiments towards Kuwait following the explosions there. Can your stand be considered as an indication that Egypt has returned to practice its natural role in the Arab world.

A: We are one Arab people. My cousin and I united against the stranger. We have had good relations with Kuwait for a long time, and not to stand with our brother in times of catastrophe and crisis would be against our traditions. We may differ, but we will compromise, and soon. This is the future of Arabs.

Q: Egypt now faces two main problems, the economic situation and the question of democracy. Has the economic situation improved, and has the democratic climate changed, despite the continuation of emergency rule?

A: On the economic situation, we worked out a plan, and at the end of this plan we feel we will be well on the way to economic progress. Of course the results will not be clear in one year, two years, or even four. But we are on the right road to improving the country's economic position.

I feel there has been an improvement, but economic crises cannot be solved overnight. All the world has economic problems which take time to solve.

And don't forget that we inherited problems such as the water and severage networks, which were 50-year-old problems. But, all we can do is stick to our plan.

Concerning the democratic climate, you can well see that what newspapers in Egypt are doing today they could never have done before. There are no restrictions at all on the parties' newspapers. We will never deviate from the concept of the supremacy of the law. What you call emergency law is nothing of the kind. What have you found which can be considered as emergency or extraordinary.

Q: Martial law.

A: All countries in the world have laws to fight terrorism, more strict than any emergency rule. Martial law is only aimed against extremism. We use martial law against terrorism and nothing else. There is martial law in Germany, France, Britain, all over the world. The part of our martial law concerning terrorism is only one percent of the laws imposed by other countries. You, in Kuwait, have the same thing to fight terrorism. If you do not, then you have other laws which permit the Interior Ministry to arrest wanted men immediately. In other countries, the Interior Ministry has the right to arrest and jail a man for up to six months, but in Egypt it is for 15 days, which can be extended for another 15 days, then the man must face trial. I do not see any extraordinary or emergency laws in Egypt. What do emergency laws mean?

Q: Like Camp David for example.

A: I challenge anyone to hold a referendum among the Egyptian people on whether they want to cancel the Camp David accords. You will find no one agrees with you, except the same people who previously said no. In public, and for election purposes, they call for the cancellation, but if you meet them separately they say that Camp David has now gone.

Q: The Egyptian *AL-MUSAWAR* magazine said that recalling the Egyptian ambassador from Israel represented the wishes of half the Egyptian people. What does the other half want from the agreement?

A: I challenge the view that the Egyptian people want to cancel the Camp David accords and put the country in a state of war, because cancelling the accord means a state of war. Is the Arab nation ready for a state of war? We will all be in a state of war.

Q: You have announced that recalling the ambassador represented the Egyptian public opinion.

A: The least we could do was to recall the ambassador. Jews were hoping that I would recall our ambassador and expel their ambassador, but I did not do so. They want me to cancel the accord and be rid of it, now or later.

Q: Many Arab investors wish to invest in Egypt, but regrettably they face more difficulties than in any other country, particularly with regard to formalities. For instance, it is very easy to buy an apartment and pay the price, but it is exremely difficult to register. Why is this the situation in spite of Egypt's frequent calls for investors?

A: The law gives the right to own a flat and as far as I know registration is easy. So what is the problem?

Q: It is next to impossible to reach higher authorities or the Council of Ministers.

A: I will look into the matter to make the procedures easy and short.

Q: When you came to power after the death of As-Sadat, Egyptians expected changes in the ministers and aides and in the administration as a whole. They were also expecting the appointment of a number of vice-presidents, but this did not happen.

A: It will not happen. People are accustomed to see changes in the government at short intervals and this causes economic instability. I do not believe in changing ministers every five or six months. Ninety percent of the ministers have been changed in this way before and this is a major cause of instability. It is difficult to find a minister who does not make mistakes. If he commits a mistake we should first tell him to correct the mistake. A minister who continues to make mistakes should be dismissed. If I fire a minister after five months, how will the country attain stability and how will economic development be succeessful? Each time people come up with new rumors.

The last one I read in your newspapers was that two ministers — Safwat ash-Sharif and Sulayman Mutawalli — will go, and Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the present foreign minister would become the prime minister. I am wondering where they got such information. I am searching for stability and say good-bye to those who are not good. I want to make good prime ministers from these ministers, because I can't bring one from abroad.

I always search for the one who is productive and can deliver the goods. If any minister is not productive and commits many mistakes, then I say good-bye to him, after cautioning him many times. Moreover, I do not appoint somebody as a minister because he may be my friend. I seek the country's welfare. But despite my philosophy, many ministers have been changed during my rule. I am committed to the Constitution and responsible for it. I tell a minsiter to go if he does not get results.

The country is not my farm so that I can do whatever I like with it. Before issuing a decision I revise it with 20 or 30 people. The country is ruled by constitutional establishments. Moreover, we talk and discuss matters in the National Assembly. I can't rule the country alone.

Q: What about a vice-president?

A: The president has the right to appoint one or more vice presidents and determine their duties. I don't like appointing five or six vice presidents, and after a month, discharging this one and appointing that one — like pawns in a chess game. The vice president has no definite duties to perform as the president assigns his duties according to the Constitution. The Constitution does not compel me to appoint a vice president.

Q: Does this mean that you don't need a vice-president or there are no conditions for appointing one?

A: Who said I am willing?

Q: Does this mean that Egypt does not have the proper man?

A: That is not the point. But one has to select a well-qualified man and be sure of him because he will represent the people. I can't appoint one or two vice presidents and then discover they are not suitable.

Q: If you compare the Egyptian and Kuwaiti press you find that the space devoted to the Egyptian news in the Kuwaiti press is more than the space devoted to the same news in the Egyptian press. What is your comment?

A: I read it.

Q: Is a joke in Egypt a way of publicly criticising the government? Have you heard such jokes? If so, what is your view?

A: The Egyptian people are fond of jokes, and never stop making them. There are jokes which criticise and I feel this, but there are jokes just for the sake of joking.

Q: The president himself decides whether the administration is good or corrupt. If the president is clean and straight then the whole administration turns against him. Is this why you did not change your aides?

A: Who are these aides?

Q: The present government which includes the same old faces.

A: If you mean the prime minister, he has become a prime minister for the first time and is a very honest and hard worker. He is disliked by some, but he works and produces. This is the sort I like and the country requires.

Q: So what is your opinion of the present government?

A: I am only interested in having productive people. This is more important to me than any other factor. Some people want to fire one or two from the government, but if you ask them why they give no reason. If you go to the 10th of Ramadan city, you will see marvelous things. You will find many factories producing many goods.

Q: Mr President, you encouraged us to be very frank and you are frank with us.

A: I am very frank. I speak very frankly, otherwise I do not talk. I will tell you something. The first is that there are leftists here who wish to see us collapse and to close the open-door economic policy. They are spreading a lot of rumours. The second thing is that here in Egypt we received a great many shocks before reaching the present position. We are now proceeding as a civilised country and solving our problems very calmly. I don't change public opinion in order to change the government. We don't change the government every seven months. We are trying to stabilise the country. The Egyptian people have become accustomed to receiving many shocks in a very short time. But we have now reached a saturation point and are fed up with this. I am a practical and objective man because this is my nature and I can't change it.

We are willing to work, to produce, and raise the standard of living in the country. Much has been said about the calamities and problems of the Arab nation, the responsibility for which is put on Arab leaders and at times on some Arab countries. In fact, according to some cultured Arab thinkers there is only one problem: The absence of democracy.

Some Arab presidents say they arrived in a tank and will leave in a tank when asked about the difference of opinion with the people. In fact, whether we accept it or not, Egypt is the biggest Arab country with regard to population, capability, materials, and the true wealth of manpower. We are accustomed to seeing Egypt as the pioneer in all fields, whether economic, political, or military.

It is said that true democracy is absent in Egypt. There is democracy in Egypt, but it cannot be compared to that in Iraq, Syria, or some other Arab countries. There is partial democracy but it is negative. The Arab world is in need of Egypt's leadership, not a military or political leadership, but leadership in freedom of opinion and viewpoints. Elections are coming, and democracy will be obvious here, contrary to the condition at the time of Abd an-Nasir or as-Sadat.

Q: Let me object. Was there democracy at the time of As-Sadat?

A: On the elections and on the Camp David treaties, whoever agreed could voice thier opinion. But whoever said no would be investigated, and the state police would be there.

Q: Not to this extent.

A: This is true.

Q: We are not Egyptians, we are Arabs, but there is no doubt that we are loyal to Egypt. When we criticise the situation in Egypt we do so because it reflects on us. In Kuwait we have a democracy which is not the democracy found in Sweden or Japan. There is democracy and there is freedom, more than that found in Egypt.

A: We have a great deal of democracy, but I don't want to go into details.

Q: You have your own plans and there are public demands which are certain to affect our situation in the world either in the near or distant future. We suffer defeats because there is no democracy and individual decisions are taken. Decisions are taken by only one man and he wants only his relatives and no outsiders.

A: Then why do you tell me to copy others. I will not change my mind. No relative of mine will come. The only people wanted are productive ones.

Q: I support you. If democracy is established on a sound footing in Egypt, then the other Arab countries will be affected in the matter of a month, a year, or five years, and then the decision will spring from the people, either unanimously or by a majority decision. There will be elections in May, and we hear that you intend to prevent the authorities from interfering in these elections. We hope that the Arab constitutions will be developed as a result of this freedom.

A: Egypt is the largest Arab country and we will follow the democracy in Kuwait part of the way. When Egypt deepens its democracy then Kuwait, Tunisia, and Morocco will follow suit. At that time there may be differences but not hostility with other regimes. When there is no democracy in Iraq then it will find itself in a critical situation. We have the power to defend ourselves, not to attack Israel, but to defend ourselves. I do not want to interfere in the democracy of other Arab countries.

Q: We want to interfere in your affairs.

A: You are welcome to do so, and I will talk to you.

Q: Why will we be affected by Egypt?

A: We began democratic life in Egypt. So do not ask me to follow the same democracy as the UK, France, the U.S., or Germany.

Q: I said we will not compare ourselves to Sweden and Japan, but we want to attain the standards of Sweden and Japan.

A: There are many things going on in Egypt. Any foreigner can spend money. Fifty-two percent of Egyptians are illiterate and they take advantage of the simplicity of the people to stir trouble and pay for it. When we will reach the same standard of democracy as those countries? When we raise our cultural standard, when we are aware of what we choose.

I once asked a German "Who will you elect?" He said it was a personal matter and people in Germany elected the people they thought had the welfare of the country at heart. Long ago elections in Egypt took advantage of the illiteracy of the people. But when we reach some awareness in elections, we will know we have attained democracy.

Despite this, we do not interfere in elections or falsify results. The ballot boxes are seen by the delegations of other parties. During the last elections in Alexandria, the delegations of other parties were present and the National Party won the elections. There was no force, no power exerted, and no police.

We want to reach that standard of democracy, but we cannot do so overnight. We are human beings, and many elections throughout the world are tampered with. The authorities do not interfere with the elections in Egypt. But when you say you have more democracy than we have in Egypt, you must realise that you have your method and we have ours.

Q: I only meant that when Egypt deepens its democracy then the Arab world will deepen its democracy.

A: We do our best to deepen democracy. But we do not want to allow the country to be used for the benefit of another country. If this happens you will also be affected.

Q: No doubt democracy involves having many parties.

A: There are many parties. But 70 percent of what they say is not true. Let them talk and write whatever they like.

Q: There are five local newspapers in Kuwait. Sometimes the Kuwait government considers the newspapers to be against it.

A: I am not concerned with Kuwait. Do not let me interfere in Kuwait's affairs.

Q: What do you think of the insulting remarks about Kuwait published by Musa Sabri (former editor of an Egyptian daily)?

A: When did Musa Sabri publish anything against you?

Q: On many occasions.

A: Such a thing is impossible now. When did it happen? Do not speak about what happened 20 years, or 8 or 7 years ago. I was not ruling at that time.

Q: This is the best answer.

A: I was not reading newspapers.

Q: Do you think the U.S. will recognise the PLO after your meeting with Yasir 'Arafat as the first step towards solving the crisis of the organisation? What do you think the position of the Soviet Union will be about such a solution?

A: We are doing our best to make the U.S. have direct negotiations with Yasir 'Arafat. I have made great efforts in this matter until this week, and have had no rest. When I was in the U.S. I told them clearly that they must begin negotiations with the Palestinians. They asked me who among the Palestinians. I said the organisation. They asked who in the organisation. I said Yasir 'Arafat was the most moderate member, and they replied that he talks endlessly.

I told the U.S. that 'Arafat said we will drive Israel into the sea. We all know we cannot throw Israel into the sea as it is country protected by the East and West. Yasir 'Arafat is the most important and best moderate to negotiate with, otherwise the U.S. will lose a great deal. I told them the big powers will negotiate with the devil if necessary, then why did they not begin negotiations with Yasir 'Arafat in order to solve the Palestinian question?

I made this very clear to the U.S. Congress and President. I also told Rumsfeld the same thing, namely, that the only solution was to begin negotiations with 'Arafat. They said he did not recognize Decision 242, and they wanted a frank and clear recognition before negotiations with 'Arafat. With your help and that of the Palestinians we will try to find a way of pressing the U.S. to begin negotiations before it is too late to find a solution. The Soviet Union would not be pleased if negotiations began because they did not like frankness.

Q: There will be elections in Egypt next year for the National Assembly. According to the latest laws, dependents will not be allowed to be nominated and the parties will be limited. Will this election law be reviewed to represent all Egyptians?

A: The law was issued with the approval of the majority and there is no question of change. The other parties said they would not attend the elections, but I know they will attend. There must be a political policy for the future, and all parties must be active in it.

Anyone can join the National Assembly through the parties to represent the people. The parliamentarians must represent people, a part of the people at least. The percentage to be represented was reduced from ten to eight percent.

Anyone who joins the assembly must represent a number of people with similar political leanings. There must be parties which are serious about representing people who support them.

Those who said they will not take part in the elections will take part. They have their newspapers which sell and make profits and the rest is understood. It is useless to say that a man represents, say 600 people, as these are not the majority.

Q: What about flexibility in the field of investments?

A: We are making large strides in this field. There is an investment board that takes the applications from the investors and does all that is necessary on their behalf. I learn about urgent cases and try to get them sorted out. There is a board composed of members from all ministries that approve the application.Q: Why do you not make a change in the Cabinet?

A: This implies a change in plans, and there will be confusion that hinders development.

Q: Who is aware of what is happening?

A: The responsible minister. The government must be dismissed is the one who is unable to take action, to urge the development of plans. If the planning minister is changed, then the man who takes over will have new ideas which will cause confusion. Then the people will complain at a time we want to gain some benefit.

Q: The new investment law is a good one as it urges people to work in Egypt.

A: Tell us when you hear such remarks. Sometimes I ask the investment minister, who approved a number of big projects this year.

Q: Let us turn to the Gulf war. The role of Egypt and its position is the best among the Arab countries. Iran announced more than once that it would close the Hormuz Straits, and you know the importance of the straits to the region. Egypt, as an Arab country, is not aloof from the problem. What is your opinion?

A: Iran cannot close the straits. Let's ask: Is it possible to close the straits when the interests of the world are involved? The countries of the world would face a disaster. I told them in the U.S. that it would be a disaster if Iran closed the straits as all U.S. interests are connected with it. I do not imagine Iran can do it. But what matters may become more complicated and I cannot

foresee what will happen. It is not a simple thing to close the Hormuz Straits.

Q: It may be a psychological war.

A: It is not the Suez Canal which can be circumvented. If the straits are closed where will they turn?

Q: Iran itself will be affected.

A: Absolutely. All its interests will be affected. Iran will be the first to be harmed. The Gulf countries have surplus funds which they can spend and have ports on the Red Sea. So I do not think Iran will close the straits.

Q: What is the role of Egypt in connection with the situations in the Arab world?

A: I did my best for the Arab world. Egypt has its dignity which is part of the dignity of the Arabs. We said that we must resemble the civilised countries in not insulting each other, although some countries are still using the worst words in the dictionary, but we stopped. I am ready to go to any country without any hesitation on my part.

I will not go to a country and cause embarrassment there as they may not know how to answer. Egypt is ready for any initiative, but do not put Egypt in a critical or difficult situation because getting out of it will be worse. We have to consider all available information if we are to be aware of the situation of the Arab nation.

We have to hear everything and then take a decision. A decision taken in haste will lead to a disaster like the one we are in, especially if Egypt takes a decision which does not have a sound basis. The Arab world is full of wars and this is enough now.

Any other disaster will link the West with the East. Calamities surround us, and this is enough even for a big country like Egypt.

Mubarak Sends New Year Wishes to World Leaders

NC311808 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1423 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent congratulatory cables to the kings and presidents of countries celebrating the new year. In his cables President Mubarak conveyed sincerest wishes for their good health and happiness, and progress and prosperity for their friendly people, hoping that the new year will bring good tidings and love for all peoples.

President Mubarak sent two congratulatory cables to PRC President Li Xiannian and State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang, in which he says: It pleases me to convey to Your Excellencies sincerest congratulations on the new year, wishing you good health and happiness, and progress and advancement for your friendly people.

The Egyptian people join me in conveying our great appreciation for your constructive and positive role in participating with all the peace and justice loving peoples of the world toward driving the wagon of just and lasting peace in the Middle East for the welfare and prosperity of our peoples so that they can contribute to the establishment of a better world society.

I am confident that the historical relations, cordial ties, and fruitful cooperation between our two friendly countries will further consolidate with the passage of time for their mutual interest and for serving world peace and security. With my esteem and appreciation.

The president also sent the following congratulatory cable to His Excellency President Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania:

I am pleased to convey to Your Excellency sincerest heartfelt congratulations on the new year wishing you good health and happiness, and progress and advancement for your friendly people. We appreciate your effective participation in driving the wagon of just and lasting peace in the Middle East. We confidently look forward to a continuation of this positive role so that peace and security may prevail in our area for the welfare and prosperity of the peoples in this vital area of the world.

We are also confident that the cordial relations and fruitful cooperation between our two friendly peoples will witness further development and growth to their mutual interest and in serving world peace and security. With my esteem and appreciation.

The president also sent the following cable to President Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY State Presidency:

I am pleased to convey to Your Excellency sincerest congratulations on the new year wishing you good health and happiness and progress and advancement for your friendly people. While expressing our appreciation for your support of the process of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, we look forward to the continuation of this positive role for driving the wagon of peace in our area for the welfare and progress of its peoples.

We are confident that the cordial relations and fruitful cooperation between our two peoples will further increase, as time passes, to their mutual benefit and strengthen the nonaligned and positive neutrality movement so that we can contribute toward the establishment of a better world society. With my esteem.

President Mubarak sent a similar congratulatory cable to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The president sent congratulatory cables on this occasion to their majesties and excellencies kings and presidents of the GDR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, DPRK, Albania, Burma, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Japan, Singapore, India, and Bulgaria.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali Interviewed on Peace Process

LD302035 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1807 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Interview given by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Huda Tawfiq, Radio Monte Carlo's Cairo correspondent, within the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date not specified —recorded]

[Text] [Huda Tawfiq] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, answered all of the many questions we asked him.

[Kamal Hasan 'Ali] The current Egyptian move is to promote a peaceful solution to the Palestine question without the need to wait for a solution of the Lebanese problem. This is because 1 and 1/2 years have passed without the Lebanese problem being solved. Setting aside the Palestine question until the Lebanese problem is solved will delay the Palestine question. However, there is no objection if both questions are solved simultaneously. This is why my talks in Washington centered on the need to promote settlement efforts, and to find the appropriate formula for both these efforts and for holding a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in light of the reports and information that reached me while in Washington about Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo to meet with President Husni Mubarak.

[Tawfiq] How can the Egyptian-Palestinian summit be exploited to promote the peace efforts, especially with regard to urging the United States to play a more effective role, one that goes beyond mere verbal support for the visit?

['Ali] If we return to the statements that Yasir 'Arafat made 2 weeks before he departed from Tripoli, we fill find that all of his inclinations leaned toward Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue. This is encouraging. The visit to Cairo was another indication of this new trend in PLO policy. This change in attitude has undoubtedly prompted us to encourage the United States to take steps that will encourage the moderate elements and this new trend in the PLO. This is why we called on the United States to initiate a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. This is also why President Husni Mubarak sent his message to His Majesty King Husayn. We also made moves directed at other states for the sake of the same objective. I believe that all of this will help promote the settlement efforts, especially when we know that an election year in the United States can deter the freedom of U.S. moves.

[Tawfiq] Were these moves made toward Arab or European states?

['Ali] The moves were made toward Arab and European states. We know that President Husni Mubarak sent messages to President Mitterrand, Mrs Thatcher, and the Italian president. There were also Arab contacts to coordinate stands.

[Tawfiq] On what bases could future negotiations take place?

['Ali] We have four formulas: The Fes initiative or decision, President Reagan's initiative, the Egyptian-French draft resolutions, and the framework for Middle East peace. All of these formulas have one thing in common —namely, UN Resolutions 242 and 338. We also have Article Seven of the Fes decision, which is a tacit recognition of Israel's right to exist. Undoubtedly, all of these formulas provide a solid approach toward a settlement. They are considered a good basis for beginning the negotiations. However, some redrafting is needed before these formulas become acceptable to the negotiators. Therefore, some efforts are required for the redrafting. I am not saying that we need a new initiative. Never. What I am saying is that a redraft is needed to enable the negotiators to sit together and find a solution to the problem.

[Tawfiq] Is this the focus of Egypt's current moves with the various sides?

['Ali] This is one of the ideas being considered here and in the United Nations. This is because there is one common trend in all of these bases for a peaceful solution. As I said, the Fes initiative has Article Seven, which implies the Arab states' recognition of Israel. The Reagan initiative also contains such a provision. And despite the reservations we have on some of its points, the Reagan initiative does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza. The other initiatives also provide for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. Thus, we see that there is a common ground that achieves the demands of the conflicting sides in the Palestine question.

[Tawfiq] You know that Israel has rejected the Reagan initiative and is rejecting all efforts toward peace. What is the possibility of Israel's response to the current moves?

['Ali] Israel says it is committed to everything in the Camp David accords and to what has been achieved in the peace framework regarding the Palestine question. However, after 3 years of negotiations on autonomy with Egypt and the United States, Israel still interprets the accords in a manner contrary to the letter and spirit of the peace framework. Had it abided by the spirit of this framework, it would have been closer to the Reagan initiative, despite our reservations on some of its points.

[Tawfiq] Can we understand from this that the current contacts with Israel, and Ambassador Ash-Shafi 'Abd al-Hamid's visit to Israel for talks are intended to convince Israel to move toward peace or announce its stand on a comprehensive peace?

['Ali] There is no doubt that the intent of Ash-Shafi 'Abd al-Hamid's visit was to discuss the methods of giving an impetus to the settlement efforts with Israel. The visit came within this framework.

[Tawfiq] Was there any positive response?

['Ali] A dialogue and a study [of the situation] are now taking place in Israel and Egypt in order to achieve this noble objective.

[Tawfiq] What is the possibility of achieving a positive Palestinian response?

['Ali] We know that Yasir 'Arafat is faced with many responsibilities. There is no doubt that his arrival in Cairo cannot be an individual action. However, 'Arafat is still going to hold meetings with his brothers in Fatah and the PLO. Naturally, it will be

some time before he is able to crystallize the PLO's new policy. We wish him success in this mission.

[Tawfiq] Yasir 'Arafat is facing barriers, problems, as well as Palestinian, Israeli, and Arab rejection. What are the best methods of overcoming this rejection?

['Ali] I believe that the decision must come from the PLO itself. After many bloody Arab-Palestinian and intra-Palestinian conflicts, the PLO has realized that it has to freely make its own decisions. Egypt's responsibility is to outline the truth and try to back the settlement efforts. We place all of our capabilities at 'Arafat's support on this course.

[Tawfiq] Through our continued contacts with Jordan, do we expect King Husayn to respond positively?

['Ali] I think Jordan is willing to continue the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue and bring about a settlement, particularly since Jordan — as we know — has accepted President Reagan's initiative. Accordingly, if the Palestinians show an inclination to continue the dialogue with Jordan, I believe that in that case it will be easy for Jordan to proceed on this course.

[Tawfiq] Regarding the results of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and the contacts and moves that will follow, what is our expectation of the possibilities of success? What is our expectation of the barriers that may confront the process?

['Ali] There is no doubt that some well-known barriers do exist. The clashes in Tripoli and Al-Baddawi Camp are evidence of barriers such as the dissidents and some Arab states trying to contain Palestinian decisionmaking. The latter will certainly create some barriers. However, the PLO must protect its free decisionmaking and adopt a stand that preserves the Palestinian cause if not the PLO's unity. The gravest error the PLO committed in recent years was preserving the PLO's unity but not the Palestinian cause itself.

[Tawfiq] Suppose negotiations are held with the participation of all the parties concerned. Who are the parties concerned?

['Ali] The parties concerned in this case are the Palestinians, the owners of the land, and Jordan with the participation of Egypt, the United States, and Israel.

[Tawfiq] In light of the Israeli-U.S. strategic alliance, can we say that the negotiations will be held on an equal basis among the parties concerned?

['Ali] The issue of equality is a very formal one. No side will be able to force any other side to accept what does not suit it. I think that equality does exist, because the presence of Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians equals the presence of the partnership of Israel and the United States.

[Tawfiq] We see that we must intensify contacts with the Palestinians inside the occupied land in order to secure the participation of the occupied land's representatives. How can this be achieved? For example, through contacts between Yasir 'Arafat and the West Bank and Gaza Strip? Between King Husayn and the West Bank and Gaza? Or between Egypt and the West Bank and Gaza?

['Ali] Actually, these contacts may have various shapes, exactly as you listed. What is necessary in the coming stage is to further intensify these contacts, because the Palestinians are the party concerned. The current owners of the land are those residing in the West Bank and Gaza. Therefore, contacts with the people in the West Bank and Gaza, who are suffering under the Israeli occupation, are very significant.

[Tawfiq] Was the West Bank reaction satisfactory?

['Ali] As we saw, all West Bank and Gaza residents favor Yasir 'Arafat. This will encourage him to continue on the course of holding negotiations with King Husayn.

[Tawfiq] Yasir 'Arafat, then, may receive strong support from the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied land?

['Ali] Undoubtedly. As I mentioned, the West Bank and Gaza residents have endured much. The same applies to the Palestinians living abroad in Lebanon and elsewhere. I think it high time to end this ordeal.

Assembly Committee Report on Government Policy

U.S.-Israeli Agreement Harmful

NC311631 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The People's Assembly met tonight under Speaker Kamil Laylah to discuss the report prepared by the ad hoc committee set up to respond to the government's statement which Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din delivered to the Assembly on 3 December.

At the beginning of the meeting the committee underscored that a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem is now more pressing than ever, and that Egypt's stand stems from its dedication. The committee called for a closing of Arab ranks in face of the acute problems facing the Arab people.

The committee also made clear in its report that the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement harms the peace process, increases the elements of tension and polarization, and carries the parties concerned away from the proper solution. The committee also expressed its satisfaction over the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting. Commenting on internal issues, the committee supported what the government statement said about accommodating the various opinions. The nature of the present phase requires a full legislative survey to modify laws so as to cope with the spirit of this pahse in the framework of the supremacy of the law and respect for the legislature. The committee also called for increasing investments to broaden the productive base and increase the growth of the national product. It also called for forming a national policy aimed at achieving equilibrium between the population and available resources.

Further on Report

NC311940 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA) — The special committee set up by the People's Assembly to study the government's statement of policy which was delivered by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din at the beginning of December, affirms in its foreign policy report that a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestine question is now more pressing than before, and that unity and rallying around the legitimate leadership is the cornerstone of achieving an acceptable solution of the Palestine question.

In its report, which was delivered by Deputy Speaker of the People's Assembly Sayyid Zaki at today's Assembly Meeting, the committee stresses that the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza is a serious blow to the peace process and a serious violation of Israeli international commitments arising from the agreements Israel has signed.

On the Lebanese question, the committee affirms the demand made several times by President Husni Mubarak and the government for the need to keep hands off Lebanon, for closing the Lebanese ranks, and for Israel to withdraw its forces so that the national reconciliation can be fruitful and peace can return to Lebanon.

In its report, the committee demands that the United States,in its capacity as a full partner in the Middle East peace process, maintain self-restraint and impartiality toward all groups.

The report deals with the Egyptian Tabah problem, which is foremost among the pending questions between Egypt and Israel. The report says that the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel must be linked with a sound move toward solving that problem so that the historical rights will return to Egypt. The report says that the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and moving the Palestine question toward a just and comprehensive solution is completely linked with the Egyptian ambassador's return.

On the Iranian-Iraqi war, the report urges the two states to halt the bloodshed and urgently find a solution to the serious conflict. The committee notes the Iraqi response to the calls for peace and mediation by the Arab, Islamic, and nonaligned states, and the United Nations.

The committee welcomes the achievements in drawing up the integration charter between Egypt and Sudan and in implementing it. It urges the two governments to expedite the process of integration and eliminate the obstacles and make further popular efforts to give impetus to the process.

On relations between Egypt and the United States, the report affirms that cooperation between them in the economic, trade, and cultural fields is constructive and beneficial to the two states. It adds that the reported strategic and military cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel constitutes a new obstacle in the way of peace and that it will have a bad effect on the area in general.

The report adds that such bilateral relations between the United States and Israel do not serve the interests of the peoples in the area, are harmful to the peace process, do not achieve the goals of the parties concerned, increase the factors of tension nd polarization, perpetuate the existing conflicts, and draw the parties away from a sound solution.

The committee calls on the United States to seek a speedy solution of the basic problems in the area, foremost of which are the Palestine problem and the problem of Lebanon, its territorial integrity, and national sovereignty.

In debating the answer to the government's policy statement, the People's Assembly supported President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's foreign and domestic policy and his meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Mubarak Policy Lauded

NC011619 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Excerpts] At the session chaired today by Dr Kamil Laylah, the People's Assembly resumed its debate of the committee report replying to the government policy statement.

In the course of the debate, the committee members emphasized the need for reconsidering the wages policy in a manner that strikes a balance between wages in the government and public sectors, and between wages in the private sector and the investment sector.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, Socialist Labor Party leader and opposition representative in the Assembly, lauded President Mubarak's stances on the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement. Eng Shukri also praised the president's Arab and nonalignment policies and stance of not returning the Egyptian ambassador to Israel. The Assembly also commended the government statement for the attention dedicated to the democratic process, and demanded that momentum be generated for this process.

Opposition Paper Lauds Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

PM021457 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Dec 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting in Cairo"]

[Text] Those who think that the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting in Cairo was a coincidence and unexpected are wrong. Since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and siege of Beirut, all Palestinian revolutionary factions and commands have been discussing among themselves and with Egyptian nationalist forces the question of relations and of contact with President Husni Mubarak in particular. At no time has there been disagreement within the PLO over Egypt's key and fundamental role in the Arab area, be this a positive or negative one. Through all the setbacks and defeats which have befallen the Arab national liberation movement, the center of which is the Palestinian revolution, everyone's firm belief has been that the departure of official Egypt from the arena of confrontation is the principal factor in Arab weakness.

However, disagreement has centered on how to win back official

Egypt: by continuing the boycott until Husni Mubarak abrogates the Camp David agreements, or by responding to any step, initiative, or wish to be liberated from the Camp David shackles and drawing closer to President Mubarak so that official Egypt's return to the Arab arena will strengthen Mubarak in the gradual liberation from the Camp David agreements.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat],following his departure from Tripoli, has, for reasons he appreciated, taken a long stride toward official Egypt and President Husni Mubarak personally.

Undoubtedly this visit will have far-reaching political effects in the Palestinian arena and Arab world, as well as on Egyptian-Israeli relations and relations with the United States, effects which have not yet become evident. Despite the different and contradictory angles from which this event has been viewed, what has thus far been established and has become certain, regardless of future results, can be summed up by two principal points:

After official Egypt has been receiving enemy Israeli leaders in official and private visits for several years — Begin, Navon, Weizman, Dayan, and others — President Husni Mubarak has now received the PLO chairman at the official presidential headquarters and charged the Egyptian Armed Forces (Air Force and Navy) with the task of protecting the Greek ships that carried 'Arafat and Palestinian fighters from the moment they approached Egyptian territorial waters in the Mediterranean until their arrival at their destination in Al-Hudayday on the Red Sea. This is the first time since the October 1973 war (claimed to be the last war) and the signing of the Camp David agreements and peace treaty between the As-Sadat government and Israel that the Egyptian Armed Forces have been charged with a task that places them in a position of potential confrontation with the principal enemy of Egypt and the Arabs, the Israeli Defense Force, which was threatening to strike at 'Arafat and his fighters.

Regardless of the persistent attempts by some powerful quarters within the ruling [National Democratic] Party and the influential U.S. Administration to exploit this event to begin spreading the umbrella of U.S.-Israeli hegemony over the entire Arab nation and Palestinian revolution as a means of consolidating the Camp David policies, the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting acquires its real patriotic and national dimension on the Egyptian, Palestinian, and Arab levels from the fact that it is the beginning of Arab unity on a sound national strategy whereby the Arab nation willconfront the real military, economic, and political danger threatening it, as well as the enemy lying in wait for it, that is, the United States and Israel. This danger has been shown in many recent actions, the latest being the U.S.-Israeli aggression against the Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian peoples and the strategic cooperation agreement between those two countries.

Only such a strategy is capable of breaking the siege surrounding the Palestinian revolution, halting the chain of Arab defeats, liquidating the Camp David policy and agreements, and liberating Egypt from the shackles of the 1977 treaty.

Needless to say, the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party has always stressed the importance of Palestinian-Egyptian contacts on both the popular and official levels in order to achieve the Palestinian revolution's objectives in accordance with the resolutions of its institutions and to guarantee the Palestinian people's right to establish their own independent state on their own soil.

In the light of these two facts, the coming steps, whether by President Mubarak or Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO, will finally and categorically determine how this historic visit goes down in the annals of Arab reality and history in general.

AL-AHRAM on Palestinian Government-in-Exile

NC040748 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — The Cairo paper *AL-AHRAM*stressed that Egypt's statement that it is not considering the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile in Cairo for the time being is due to Egypt's constant eagerness to maintain not only its freedom of movement, but also the purity of Palestinian decisionmaking.

In today's editorial, the paper said Egypt has repeatedly called for establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile. However, the Palestinian stand resulted in several years delay on this matter.

AL-AHRAM adds that 'Arafat is now calling for the establishment ofa Palestinian government-in-exile following his departure from Tripoli. The daily says that is 'Arafat's legitimate request and he has formed it independently. 'Arafat formed this opinion on the basis of his struggle with contradictory policies — a struggle which culminated in actual fighting.

Concluding its article, the paper says Cairo has supported and continues to support every legitimate Palestinian quest and insists on establishing just Palestinian rights.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,330

JN031728 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,330 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 3 January 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The zealous sons of the Tigris and the Euphrates continue their brave operations against the forces of the suspect Khomeyniite regime in the various sectors. The results achieved yesterday evening and this morning are as follows:

1. Our forward units shelled several enemy positions facing their own in the northern operational sector, killing seven of the enemy and wounding several others. An infantry position was also destroyed.

2. Our forward units used all types of weapons in their attack on an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the region east of Basra. Three of the enemy were killed, several others were wounded, and one machine gun was destroyed.

3. Our forward units attacked an enemy observation post and a 106-mm mortar position opposite them in the Maysan region. Both objectives were destroyed.

4. The criminal enemy shelled (Shahrbazar, Shandari,) and suburbs today, causing damage to civilian installations there.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 January 1984

President, Kurdish Leader Reach Agreement

JN031800 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] A diplomatic source in Baghdad stated today that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani concluded a comprehensive political and security agreement last month that brought an end to the long years of conflict between the central government in Baghdad and certain influential forces in Iraqi Kurdistan. The source added that this agreement calls for the holding of free and democratic elections for the legislative and executive councils in the Kurdish autonomous areas in Iraq, and for the formation of a Kurdish army comprising roughly 40,000 men to defend Kurdistan from foreign enemies. The diplomatic source, whose information was supplied by Kurdish sources, declared that the Iraqi Government promised to allocate about 30 percent of the state budget to the reconstruction of Kurdish areas damaged in the war, to establish new development projects in the area, and to expand the autonomous zone to include the oil-producing areas in Kirkuk and Khanaqin — adjacent to the Iranian border — and in As-Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk, and Irbil.

The Iraqi Government has thus far been tight-lipped concerning the agreement, which will be announced in a message President Saddam Husayn intends to deliver to the nation on the 6 January anniversary of the Iraqi Army.

Kurdish Party Cables Support

JN311725 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The Democratic Party of Kurdistan's third branch has hailed President Saddam Husayn's outstanding historical leadership. In a cable to the president at the conclusion of an expanded meeting for cadres and members, the party branch pledged that its members will remain faithful soldiers, sacrificing their souls in defense of their dear homeland. The following is the text of the cable:

With pride, and on the occasion of the meeting of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan's third branch, the members, cadres, and supporters of the party send to Your Excellency their pledge to remain sincere soldiers, sacrificing their lives to defend their dear homeland. We affirm our determination to support our just battle until a decisive and final victory over the rancorous Iranian enemy is realized. We will devote all our energy to defending the achievements and gains of the 17-30 July revolution and entrenching and developing the Kurdistan autonomous rule. Woe to our people's enemies, the traitors and renegades. Our great Iraqi people, both Arabs and Kurds, who stand behind struggler President Saddam Husayn, the leader of our triumphant march, the builder of our glory, and the symbol of our national unity, will emerge victorious over their enemies with God's help and the determination of their proud sons.

Glory and immortality to our martyrs who wrote with their chaste blood the greatest epic of heroism and sacrifice in order to maintain Iraq's glory and pride.

[Signed] Members and cadres of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan

Egyptian Envoy Al-Baz Arrives in Baghdad 3 Jan

JN031049 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA) — Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's adviser for foreign affairs, arrived here at noon today on a short visit. He is carrying a written message from President Husni Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn.

Al-Baz was received at the airport by Muhammad Sa'id as-Sahhaf, Foreign Ministry under secretary; the head of the ministry's protocol department; and the head of the Egyptian interests office in Baghdad.

Received by 'Aziz

JN031541 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's special envoy to President Saddam Husayn, this afternoon. During their meeting, they discussed the developed relations between the two fraternal countries, the current Arab and international situation, and recent events in the aggressive war which the Iranian regime is waging against Iraq.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Sa'id as-Sahhaf, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and by the head of the Egyptian interests section in Baghdad.

Received by Saddam Husayn
JN031839 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1748 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's personal envoy and adviser on political affairs, here tonight.

The envoy conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from President Husni Mubarak concerning the strong relations which exist between the two fraternal countries and the means of further developing them in all significant fields. The message also covered the most recent developments in the Arab arena.

President Saddam Husayn expressed his great appreciation of the continuous consultation which goes on between the Iraqi and Egyptian leadership on the subjects of bilateral, Arab, and international issues of mutual concern. He expressed similar appreciation of the high sense of responsibility toward Arab issues embodied by this process.

For his part, the Egyptian envoy declared his deep gratitude for Iraq's interest in the continued development of relations with fraternal Egypt in all fields.

During this meeting, the Iraqi side explained the situation on the various battlefronts and the Iranian regime's insistence on continuing with the aggression. Note was also made of Iraq's ability to confront this aggression in a manner which would make a just and honorable peace possible.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and by the president's secretary.

Al-Baz Conveys Mubarak Message
NC031945 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (MENA) — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has received a message from President Husni Mubarak. Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affiars, forwarded the message during his meeting with the Iraqi president here tonight.

Following the approximately 2-hour meeting, Dr al-Baz said President Mubarak's message to President Saddam Husayn focused on the latest developments in the region, in light of the two countries concern with establishing a just and lasting peace in the region and with achieving security and stability in the Gulf and Arab world in general.

Dr al-Baz added: It is therefore natural for Presidents Mubarak and Saddam Husayn to exchange views regarding the latest developments, particularly the visit to Cairo by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

In his statement to journalists, Dr al-Baz said President Husni Mubarak fully appreciates President Saddam Husayn's ideas. He said he had exchanged views with President Husayn on the current Arab issues. Dr al-Baz affirmed that Egypt, like Iraq, bases its stand on a unified Arab position toward current events in the area and shares Iraq's views regarding the future of the Arab nation and the challenges facing it.

Continuing his statement, Dr al-Baz said Egypt is concerned over the events in the Gulf, and consequently is closely monitoring the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war and is firmly supporting Iraq's determination to end the conflict. He added that Egypt believes that the continuation of the fighting serves none of the area's states. Dr al-Baz warned that instability in the Gulf would yield grave results. He said: We are determined to spare no efforts to put an end to this aggravation.

Hamid 'Alwan, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, this evening hosted a dinner banquet in honor of Dr Usamah al-Baz.

Dr Al-Baz is slated to leave Baghdad for Cairo tomorrow morning.

Departure Statement 4 Jan
NC040906 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0752 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Jan (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and Presidential Office director for political affairs, left Baghdad this morning for Cairo following a 2-day visit to Iraq which followed a similar visit to Jordan.

In a departure statement, Dr al-Baz stated that he carried a letter from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to President Mubarak in reply to a letter from President Mubarak which Al-Baz delivered yesterday. In his statement, Dr al-Baz said that in his letter President Saddam Husayn mentioned the ties of solidarity existing between the Iraqi and Egyptian peoples. President Saddam Husayn voiced his appreciation of the stances Egypt has taken — under President Husni Mubarak's leadership — in defense of the Arab nation's rights.

President Comments on Recent Explosions in Kuwait
JN021357 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said that those who attack Kuwait should know that by doing so they are attacking the whole Arab nation.

He stressed that Iraq and Kuwait are part of the Arab nation in confronting the common danger and in viewing national and pan-Arab security.

He indicated that the evil forces which are antagonizing the Arab nation and its new life imagine that by means of terrorist acts they can stop the process of genuine pan-Arab interaction among the nation's sons.

Addressing a group of Iraqi schoolgirls and teachers from the Iraqi Ar-Rusafah school in Kuwait, the president stressed that the directors of petty operations in stagnant waters will be doomed to failure and cursed by history.

President Saddam Husayn emphasized that peoples cannot be defeated by detonating bombs and that the course of history will not be changed through evil childish acts that are planned by some Arab organs in collaboration with Iran.

He pointed out that the Arab people have overcome their state of weakness and that the Arab citizen has begun to realize that he is an element in the new life and is capable of expressing his status and role regardless of the hostile forces.

He added that nobody can change this fact, although the wicked forces which antagonize the Arab nation imagine that by terrorist acts they can stop the process of genuine interaction which is an expression of pan-Arab feelings and principles among the sons of the one nation.

President Saddam Husayn said that the brothers in the Arab Gulf and the Arab homeland are alert to what the Arab nation's enemies have in store for them.

He indicated that from this concept a more correct pan-Arab action began to express the need for security in the form of confronting the common danger.

He added that the enemies imagined that they could terrorize Kuwait when they knew that the Kuwaiti people, officials, and press had realized that the security of Kuwait is linked with the Arab nation's security and that any defect afflicting the Arab nation will certainly reflect negatively on the security of Kuwait. Concluding, President Saddam Husayn emphasized that this plot will be foiled and that the Arab nation will definitely emerge triumphant.

President Cables Castro on National Day
GF010812 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text of congratulatory message sent by President Saddam Husayn to Cuban President Fidel Castro on Cuban national day — no date given]

[Text] His Excellency Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers in the Republic of Cuba:

On the occasion of your country's national day, we are delighted to extend to you our good wishes in the name of Iraq and on my own behalf. We wish you good health. We also wish your friendly people progress and wish your country prosperity. We hope that bilateral friendly and cooperative relations will continue to develop in the interest of our two peoples.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic.

President's Christmas, New Year's Message
GF010924 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Congratulatory message addressed by President Saddam Husayn to Iraqi people on occasion of Christmas and New Year's — announcer read]

[Excerpt] O proud Iraqi people— During these shining days, we celebrate the glorious Christmas and the new year at the same time we ably continue our audacious confrontation of the powers of evil and aggression which are represented in the rancorous clique of Khomeyni which wanted — through its perfidious aggression — to squelch the flame of construction, light, and peace which is kindled by the great Iraqi people and which beams through the sky of most honorable Iraq. The enthusiastic children of Iraq have through their pure sacrifices and their unique heroism succeeded in repulsing the aggression that was aimed against their country. They will continue to defend their homeland and the gains of their revolution armed with their profound faith in the life of dignity and peace which was attained by their giant revolution.

Republican Decrees Issued on New Appointments
JN311310 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA) — It was announced here today that Youth Minister Ahmad Husayn was appointed director of the presidential office and RCC secretary. Babylon Governor Nuri Faysal Shahir was appointed youth minister. According to six republican decrees broadcast over Baghdad radio, Minister of Local Government Kamil Yasin Rashid has been relieved of his post and appointed director general of the regional secretariat. Karbala' Governor 'Adnan Dawud Salman was appointed minister of local government.

According to another republican decree, 'Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad Latif, chairman of the general establishment for roads and bridges, has been appointed Baghdad mayor. Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, director of the presidential office, has been appointed adviser for presidential affairs.

*edited jp*UNCLAS 5E/BBC PMU MWR
ATTN JORDAN AAMM

AL-JUMHURIYAH Warns Iran Against New Attack
JN310911 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA) — Today's issue of the newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* warns the Iranian regime against launching a new aggression on Iraqi territory. In its editorial *AL-JUMHURIYAH* emphasizes that the Iranian regime will only reap defeat whether it maneuvers with its forces or not, and whether it speeds up its preparation for aggression or delays it. The paper indicates that Iraq is aware of what the Iranian regime is preparing regarding the new aggression. It adds: We possess the equipment and methods which enable us to know the stages and details of every Iranian move. Experience has proved that our information is both correct and accurate.

The paper recalls the Iranian regime's bitter defeat in the Panjwin sector in the northern part of the battlefield and the way its forces were wiped out in this sector. It adds: For every battle, we keep a special surprise in the form of weapons, tactics, and Iraqi mentality whose creativity has never stopped. The fierce battles arouse the Iraqis' zeal and the difficult situations increase their ingenuity. Therefore, the Iranian regime must choose the way it wants its followers to die.

Concluding, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* stresses that Iraq is always capable of destroying the aggressor forces and ensuring security, reassurance, and safety for the homeland and the people.

Youth Minister Returns From Romania 30 Dec
JN310837 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Minister of Youth Ahmad Husayn and his delegation returned to Baghdad yesterday after a visit to Romania by invitation from the chairman of the National Council of Physical Education and Sports. In a statement to INA, the minister saidthat during the visit, he conveyed a message from Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, to Romanian Prime Minister Dascalescu on friendly relations, and the development of cooperation between Iraq and Romania.

PRC Congress Delegation Departs 2 January
JN021723 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA) — Wang Renzhong, vice-chairman of the PRC People's Congress Standing Committee and chairman of the Economic and Financial Committee, and his delegation left Baghdad tonight after a 1-week visit to Iraq. Wang Renzhong held talks with National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad and a number of officials on issues of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and PRC. The PRC delegation's discussions also dealt with the existing economic and trade relations between both countries, and the means of bolstering them. Wang Renzhong expressed his country's satisfaction over its relations with Iraq, and his country's desire to strengthen these ties to serve the interests of both friendly peoples.

Husayn Interviewed on Foreign Policy Issues

JN022050 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Interview with King Husayn by Jordan Television correspondent 'Adil Malik — date and place not specified; video recorded]

[Text] [Malik] Your Majesty King Husayn, I am both delighted and honored to welcome you to this meeting. In fact, I am talking to you on the eve of a new year. Last year abounded with events, particularly in our Arab region. Tonight we want to review with you this year's calendar and pause at some pages on the Lebanese tragedy, the Iraqi-Iranian war, and the Palestine question.

Allow me to begin with the tragedy of Lebanon. This tragedy is in its ninth year and is still searching for a lost peace. You had and still have sound concepts regarding the Lebanese crisis. The question is specifically: What are, in Your Majesty's opinion, the direct reasons for the continuation of this crisis and what prospects do you see on the horizon toward a solution?

[Husayn] The main reason for the crisis or tragedy, in my opinion, is closely related to the causes of instability in our region, which is a result of the failure to reach a just and honorable solution on the subject of the Palestinian Arab rights and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The failure of the efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis in the last year was related to world tension resulting from the deteriorating relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, in addition to the Zionist and Israeli aims to internationalize the region, a matter which threatens our freedom as Arabs and threatens the Arab personality and the Arab individual's presence, future, and ties with other individuals in the Arab homeland. There are Israeli forces in Lebanon. These forces were supposed to leave Lebanon at the beginning of this year, which is about to elapse. Moreover, there are forces from a sister Arab state. These forces were also supposed to leave Lebanon.

The aim must remain to restore Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and preserving Lebanon's independence and unity. However, international tension, as I have already said, is present and both the Soviet Union and the United States are practically, and either directly or indirectly, present in Lebanon. The Lebanese people are supposed to play a major role in solving all problems, reaching an ideal formula for their relations within one homeland — their homeland — and dealing with what they used to complain about in the past and what they complain about now and perhaps in the future. However, frankly, I note that the circumstances surrounding Lebanon and the factors in Lebanon have not helped and will not help reach a solution. I hope the aims will be clarified again toward Leabnon's return to its people and the return of Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and the restoration of the Lebanese people's unity in their country.

[Malik] Accordingly, the situation is frozen because of the tense relationship between the East and West. Has a solution to the Lebanese crisis become the hostage of the current tension between the two superpowers, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] It seems to me that this is one of the main factors affecting Lebanon's present and future. It is also a very imporant factor that will affect the future of the Arab countries throughout the Arab homeland.

[Malik] Are you inclined to have some optimism or — regrettably — pessimism?

[Husayn] One should live with hope. If we consider the subject from an Arab standpoint related to Arab interests, I cannot find any Arab interest in the consecration of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, for example, or in maintaining the current state of affairs, dividing Lebanon between Israel on the one hand and other Arabs sides on the other, or in practically partitioning and fragmenting it. I am against the trend which we see in Lebanon and which we may see in the future in other parts of the Arab homeland which aims at dividing us into factions, tribes, and minorities so that Israel can have the upper hand and be the stronger side in the region. It seems to me that this is the plan that is being implemented.

[Malik] Is it still possible to resist this trend?

[Husayn] Of course, we can still resist it by saying a word of truth in this Arab world, by moving, by allowing the majority to have an opinion, and by trying to rescue our credibility as a nation through a new action. Perhaps the most important and the first topic we must deal with and give due attention to in any next summit meeting — if we want to march ahead — is reconsidering the Arab League Charter so that we can give the Arab League and Arab summits a value, impact, and an ability to help this nation move toward its aims and goals. We must speak the truth and not shirk our responsibilities. If harm and evil afflict our brothers, we should not only hope they will recover and be saved by God's will; we should return to what has always existed and consider any evil or harm inflicted on any part of the Arab homeland a danger that threatens us all. The majority should have its respected word. We must have a policy and a status that compel the others in this world to respect us.

[Malik] Your Majesty, another chapter with which the year that is about to end abounded was that of the Iraqi-Iranian war. We all know that you were the first to warn against the consequences of this war. Now that this conflict or war, which is exhausting all sides on more than one level, has dragged on, how can the side that is insisting on war — and we frankly mean Tehran — be convinced to settle this conflict after the failure of all military and political attempts?

[Husayn] This is undoubtedly a tragedy which is affecting us all and from which we are all suffering. It is also a loss to the parties directly concerned. It is a loss in human and material terms.

I do not think the issue is one of borders. Otherwise, it would have been possible to settle the conflict through negotiations, as there are historical methods and well known methods which could help reach a solution that is acceptable to both sides. On the other hand, if an end is desired for the conflict, not only between Iraq and Iran but also between Iran and the rest of the brothers in the

region, relations among all should be based on principles of mutual respect and noninterference by any side in the other's internal affairs. It seems to me that this is not the aim, and herein lies the secret of the continuation of this tragic war. It seems to me that the aim is to cause further fragmentation, weakness, and differences among brothers.

If the fragmentation attempts against Iraq, which is the stronger and the more steadfast, succeed, these attempts will certainly affect the Arab region and the Arab individual throughout the entire Arab homeland. We stand on the side of Iraq because it is right. We stand on its side because we are Arabs and members of the Arab League. We support it because we signed the joint defense pact. We stand on its side because it has always stood on our side. We perform our duty accordingly. Had the Arab stand been unified and clear in this regard, this would have contributed to an end to this war.

[Malik] Your Majesty, everyone knows that at the beginning of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict you adopted a brave stand in support of Iraq — and you indicated this a short while ago. If you were destined to comprehensively reconsider the situation in light of the new developments, would you regret siding with Iraq?

[Husayn] Never. I am honored by adopting this stand, and so is my country and every Jordanian. I hope this stand will be recorded in our nation's history.

[Malik] What is the impact of the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict on the Gulf region?

[Husayn] This conflict obviously threatens the region and gives foreign forces the chance for a strong presence in the region and consequently to threaten it. It also weakens the Arabs and distracts them from other basic issues. It is actually a tragedy in the real sense of the word.

[Malik] Your Majesty, we now come to the primary question, the Palestine question, the current condition of the Palestine question and the condition of the Palestinians. As you know, there is a difference between the two. In light of what has happened recently, particularly in Tripoli, regarding a split among the Palestinians and whether these splits were inspired by the Palestinians themselves or by others, is the PLO in its current state still the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative? To what extent has the Palestinian legitimacy been stricken?

[Husayn] Palestinian legitimacy is certainly a target and there are obvious attempts to dominate and influence it by one or more than one sister Arab state. I am not certain if there is a power backing this or that sister state in undermining the Palestinian arena, action, and the PLO in particular. We consider this action illegal and unacceptable. This action will not — even if it should succeed — lead to destroying the PLO by eliminating its leaders or by controlling them one way or another.

Once more we say that this odd situation, which was carried out by force of arms and by the instigation and participation of a part of the Palestinians, cannot be considered legal. This action does not represent the Palestinian Arab people or their aspirations. Our stand is clear. We acknowledge the existence of the PLO and believe that its presence and continuation hinge on its ability to return to the basic principles and derive its strength and the reason for its presence and continuation from the people whom it represents.

[Malik] Let us move to the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. Your Majesty had earlier outlined a visualization of this relationship before the loss of the rest of the land. Allow me to say it frankly: The reuctance of some Palestinian leaders in that period at the last moment prevented implementation of this visualization. The question is: How do you view the new Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in light of the developments in the current state of affairs?

[Husayn] In fact, the circumstances under which we are living dictate the establishment of such a relationship as soon as possible. Efforts are being exerted and will be exerted to crystallize this into reality in the near future.

The Palestine question is the cause of the Arab nation. It is the Arab right. Precisely, this cause directly and primarily concerns the Palestinians first of all and then the Jordanians to the same degree. It also concerns the kinfolk and brothers throughout the Arab nation. Israel is occupying the whole of Palestine. If things deteriorate in Lebanon, there will be more than 300,000 Palestinians threatened by the eruption of circumstances that may not allow them to stay in Lebanon. Israel is currently and rapidly continuing to change the topographic features of the land. Israel has announced its intention to rehabilitate the brothers and kinfolk and to transfer them from their camps and residences in the occupied territories to the Jordan valley. I believe that this is a step to eventually force them to leave the Palestinian land.

The current stage is critical and acute. I believe that a formula defining the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship that is acceptable to every Jordanian and every Palestinian should be reached. This is my visualization of this relationship until the land is restored. I hope we will achieve this and make it binding on all the parties concerned. I hope this relationship will be established on solid grounds of confidence, clarity, and sincerity. I hope the state of affairs that has existed so far will change. Instead of going as individuals to ask our brothers in the Arab homeland for their opinion, I hope that the situation will change so we and the Palestinians go together and tell the brothers that we are defending this nation. We hope you will bless and support it.

I see that the circumstances and the challenges dictate to us and our Palestinian brothers that we crystallize this as soon as possible. We will proceed in this direction sincerely and honestly.

[Malik] Your Majesty, is the confederation formula, which had been proposed earlier, still considered sound and, consequently, has the Palestinian reservation about this formula vanished?

[Husayn] I do not know. We will handle things as they crystallize in the future. However, the point is not only what the Palestinian side sees; there is the other side of the same family, the Jordanian side. Here I say that regardless of the final formula, it must be accepted by everyone. It must be convincing and satisfactory to all now, in the future, and in all circumstances.

I further believe that in any discussion and within any formula to deal with the Palestine question in a complete manner, the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship should not be raised for discussion. These relations should be an issue concerning one family belonging to one nation striving to restore and rescue their land and their right. We must not give others the opportunity to interfere in this affair, which is a private matter that concerns us.

[Malik] Allow me, Your Majesty, to talk about U.S. policy in the region. From a neutral and objective position, most observers notice that there is what we may call a state of clumsiness in the U.S. policy in general. This has led and may further lead in the future to more suffering in the region. What is your opinion of the U.S. policy in the region?

[Husayn] There are many aspects that I find unpleasant and absolutely unacceptable. The most serious aspect is what seems to have crystallized recently: that the United States — despite the many questions raised about its stand in the first place — has moved from its position as a neutral superpower to a direct ally to one of the parties involved in the region's conflict. This, actually, has a negative impact on the U.S. ability to contribute to the establishment of a just and honorable peace in the region, as it wishes. There is no doubt that the Zionist movement and Israel are active in the U.S. arena. This activty has increased since 1956. Maybe we are partly to blame for this because we have not defended our right in the Palestinian arena as should have been the case. We left Israel to develop a large influence on the United States and its policy.

At any rate, the issue is one of our right against the vanity of our enemies. This is one of the challenges we must face. We have to do that by embarking on action that may restore our credibility as a nation in this world. We should not escape from one arena and leave it open for our opponents to act in it as they wish and manage to achieve their goals and desires.

[Malik] Consequently, Your Majesty, what is the fate of President Reagan's initiative?

[Husayn] President Reagan confirms every now and then that he is still abiding by his own stand and commitment. In reality, we find that in this stage the initiative is practically frozen. There is a need for new bases. I also believe that in a later stage it is necessary to reconsider the whole affair.

We naturally hope that the United States will be a primary party contributing with the other parties concerned in the region to the establishment of a lasting and honorable peace in the region. The others, however, must have a role. This applies to the Soviet Union and, maybe, to all the UN Security Council's permanent members.

[Malik] Your Majesty, we know you have been invited to visit Washington. Will you accept this invitation and when, or are there certain conditions to your visit to the United States?

[Husayn] I have no plan to visit the United States in the near future. I usually visit the United States every now and then. I try to serve my nation and its cause. When circumstances permit, I will make such a visit. However, there are no preparations to visit the United States at present.

[Malik] Your Majesty, it is no secret that you have resisted and are still resisting many pressures to join different plans to solve the region's crisis, or what is visualized as solutions to the region's crisis. What is the practical and defined Jordanian proposal to bring about an applicable and just solution?

[Husayn] I believe that the bases are clear; they lie in the principles included in UN Security Council Resolution No 242. This might not please some sides. However, I am talking here about the inadmissable and forcable seizure of land and holding territories by means of war. This means that it is necessary to withdraw from all these territories. Furthermore, this means that the Palestinian Arab people must practice their rights and that the safety and stability of the region as well as of all the peoples and states in it must be guaranteed.

[Malik] Do the Fes resolutions still exist and how can one give new impetus to these resolutions?

[Husayn] The Fes resolutions consist of a group of principles and frameworks. We tried to implement them, particularly through our efforts with the Palestinian brothers during the era that followed the Fes meeting. We tried to develop and crystallize a Jordanian-Palestinian stand on that and to find the necessary mechanisms to implement those resolutions.

[Malik] My last question: King Husayn, who has been steadfast for 31 years or more, we used to see a smile on your face whether on gloomy or bright days. How do you look at the future as a person, filled with experience and having a large pan-Arab responsibility?

[Husayn] I look at the future from the point of view of concern for this nation's interests, future, fate, rights, and integrity. I believe that the current stage is one of the most dangerous stages in the history of the nation. However, our nation has survived many challenges. I am confident that this nation will eventually triumph. The Arab man has qualities and characteristics that enable him to achieve that. Through his awareness, the Arab man can move in the appropriate time and speak his words regarding what is related to his fate, future, and right. I pray to God to help me in what is left for me in this life to serve and offer something to the coming generations, for whose sake we are now working and living.

[Malik] Your Majesty King Husayn, thank you for this interview. We want to remain optimistic even on the gloomy days. Thank you.

Radio Monte Carlo: King May Reactivate Parliament

JN031817 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] King Husayn is getting ready to reactivate the Jordanian Parliament, which consists of members from the east and West Banks. This parliament was suspended 9 years ago. Let us now listen to colleague Fu'ad Nu'aym reporting from the Jordanian capital:

[Begin recording] While Yasir 'Arafat is busy in Tunis trying to arrange the affairs of the Palestinian house, Jordan is expected to take internal measures to arrange the affairs of the Jordanian house prior to crystallizing the new Jordanian-Palestinian relations which King Husayn spoke about yesterday. The first measure may be the return to parliamentary life in the Kingdom after a 9-year break, during which Jordanian parliamentary activity was frozen as a result of the 1974 Rabat summit resolution.

Last November King Husayn candidly announced the imminent return of parliamentary life in the Kingdom. He said: It is essential to return to the situation where the Jordanians are able to participate in the government.

Therefore, King Husayn is expected in the next few days to call for the convocation of the most recent House of Representatives, which was elected in 1967 and which consists of 60 representatives, half of them of Palestinian origin. This house will find the appropriate constitutional formula that will enable it to appoint or elect several members representing the east and West Banks to replace those who died since the election of the house in 1967. [end recording]

King Husayn's move to reactivate Parliament may have two objectives: first, to demonstrate the existing practical, and even constitutional, relationship between the West Bank and Jordan so as to prepare the way for any earnest effort to solve the Middle East crisis; and second, possibly to form a new government in Jordan that will be concerned with the coming phase.

JORDAN TIMES on Failure of Reagan Initiative

JN041015 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Jan 84

[Editorial: "The Act Isn't Right"]

[Text] If it were just a question of Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) saying "yes" to the Reagan proposals on the Middle East, and we would then recover the occupied Arab territories from Israel, Jordanians and Palestinians probably would not have waited until now to join the U.S.-sponsored peace process. But unfortunately, the issue had never been as simple as that.

As we are still wondering what it really takes — and how long — to pave the way for a peaceful settlement in the region, it helps to take a look back and see how different today's situation is from the recent past.

Seen from one perspective, the biggest stumbling block to achieving a comprehensive Middle East settlement remains that combination of Israeli intransigence and American mishandling of collective U.S. and Israeli policies in this area. On the one hand Washington knows, but yet has to accept, that for the Reagan initiative to have surivived there must have been enough American pressure on Israel to make the necessary concessions for peace — namely the giving up of the occupied Arab land.

On the other hand, the U.S. has to realise that, more than they have conceded already, the Arabs have nothing more to concede, and that is that.

In his Sept. 1 proposals of 1982, the U.S. president asked the PLO to sort of ignore its very existence and settle for what little he had to offer th ePalestinians. It was an outrageous proposition, and had to be totally rejected by the Palestinians. Now what?

Another U.S. proposal implied that the PLO had to content itself with whatever form of self-determination, or more accurately the lack of it, the Americans and the Israelis had to offer the Palestinians. Again this was unacceptable, and we all saw what had happened afterwards.

President Reagan then ruled that not all Palestinian land belonged to them and that parts of it would have to be retained by Israel for "security" purposes. But what is in fact left of the land now? And how did the Americans manage to stop Israel from building more and bigger Jewish settlements on the West Bank?

Over 16 months have passed since we last heard hard facts from the U.S. president and his administration, and the Americans seem to be thinking that Jordanians and Palestinians might still give a "yes" or a "no" answer to their set of proposals. Is this period not long enough for the Americans to have said: Sorry pals, we do not think we got our Sept. 1 act right?

Columnist Views Jackson's Trip to Syria

JN041046 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Jan 83 p 24

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "To America With Love"]

[Text] It is not Jesse Jackson's prayers that led to the release of the captured U.S. pilot Goodman. What led to his release is the clever notion that tells the Americans: A clean politician like Jesse Jackson can establish a common language with every Arab capital. A politician with such moral character can build a basis of understanding with every nation in the world.

Jackson is first of all an American, but he represents the oppressed in his country. Jackson is an American who is committed only to the interests of his people and nation. Therefore, he understands his counterpart as being the same.

Jesse Jackson will take the released black pilot Goodman back with him to his country in order to continue his election campaign with this personal triumph. He will tell his fellow countrymen that a clean politician can ensure peace and guarantee safety and security for the American people. He will not be a lackey for the Zionist lobby and for the U.S. political mafia. A clean politician does not lie like Henry Kissinger or Philip Habib and does not deal with people with bombs, guns, and aircraft like the entire Reagan administration is doing.

Many Americans talk about the policy of the establishment or the administration, but there is ample opportunity for certain members of this establishment or administration, who enjoy great moral courage, to make moral, courageous decisions affecting international politics.

Jesse Jackson went to Damascus and took back with him a U.S. pilot who killed Syrians and was captured by the Syrians. Jackson did this while campaigning for election. On the other hand, President Reagan declared the U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO because his representative there became incapable of defending the rabid Zionist clamor in that organization. Reagan does this to win the Jewish vote in the presidential election. Which of the two stands befits and becomes a great nation? Which of the two stands is characterized by moral courage in international dealings?

The Democrats may not elect the Reverend Jackson as their candidate for the presidency. The blacks may not be able this time to carry him over to the presidential campaign. However, Jackson's brilliant political speeches, his campaign against corruption and vested interests, and his attacks on the administration's foreign policy, particularly its dealings with the Third World, will prompt all Americans with good intentions and all those who are clean and who possess moral courage to assume positions in the politics of their country and raise their voices — as they did during the Vietnam war — to say: Give peace a chance. They will denounce the hideous war which washington is waging against the Arabs through its Zionist lackey in the region.

We shake Jackson's hand: He left the land of the Arabs carrying a tangible factor to use in his difficult campaign.

Al-Jumayyil Chairs Liaison Committee Meeting 3 Jan

NC031323 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1150 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Report by Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — live]

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil today chaired the regularly scheduled meeting of the Higher Liaison Committee in the presence of the U.S., French, Italian, and British ambassadors, Multinational Force commanders, and Lebanese officers' team.

At the outset of the meeting, His Excellency wished the Multinational Force and its personnel a good and peaceful new year. His Excellency briefed the conferees on the proposed security plan to be implemented in the near future.

The chief of the Operations Room at the presidential palace then reviewed the security situation in the country, noting the tangible improvement in the field and the daily incidents in the south.

Coordinator General Staff Major General Faris then reviewed the new redeployment plan for the Multinational Force in light of the expected application of the security plan and on the basis of coordination between the Lebanese Army and those forces in the field and at various command levels. The appropriate decisions were adopted in this respect.

Chairs Meeting, Calls Khaddam

NC032053 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting at the Presidential Palace tonight. The meeting, which concluded at 2030, was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan; Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus; Zahi al-Bustani, director general of public security; Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman, acting director general of the Internal Security Forces; Colonel Simon Qassis, director of Army Intelligence; and Dr Wadi' Haddad, presidential adviser for political affairs.

The conferees studied the progress made in the current contacts aimed at approving the comprehensive security plan. They also studied the final touches to the draft plan. During the meeting, President al-Jumayyil telephoned Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to extend greetings on the occasion of the new year. Prime Minister al-Wazzan held talks with [Lebanese Foreign] Minister Salim.

On this occasion, President al-Jumayyil briefed Minister Khaddam on the atmosphere of the current contacts to put the final touches to the security plan — the contacts which created an atmosphere of satisfaction. It was decided to continue the contacts to ensure the success of the security plan.

After the meeting Prime Minister al-Wazzan said:

[Begin recording] The security plan was the central topic at the meeting. We have been steadily seeking for a long time to implement this plan, with all its details, in agreement with all those concerned.

Since the meetings in which the Syrian and Saudi brothers participated, and encouraged by them and their continuous efforts, our primary concern has been to achieve the objective of the Geneva Confernece, to consolidate the cease-fire, and restore normalcy to the Lebanese. Today the security officials, who contacted the various parties, have acquainted us on specific details of the plan. Now that we finally approved the plan today in our capacity as a Lebanese authority, I hope that it will be implemented soon. There are very few details which still need to be crystallized. We, too, need to quickly prepare the executive steps. We hope that good intentions will continue to reflect the desire of the Lebanese people, who yearn for normal life, security, and stability. We hope that these intentions will continue and that we all agree on love of Lebanon and the comfort of our Lebanese sons. It is time that they rest from all that has happened and is happening. We hope we will cooperate in rebuilding a new Lebanon on the basis of justice, equality, and complete freedom. [end recording]

Salim on Multinational, UN Emergency Forces

NC031320 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim this morning outlined the objective of the Multinational Force in Beirut in an interview with the U.S. CBS television network. He said its basic objective is to help the state extend its authority over all of Beirut and to ensure support for the regime. He added that the Multinational Force's presence has always been useful. He said the force's withdrawal before fulfilling its mission is a serious indication, particularly since Lebanon is now taking a turn for good and progress. The security plan will soon see light in a positive political atmosphere and it is useful for the Multinational Force to remain as long as the atmosphere is positive.

Minister Salim said: If the situation becomes stable and an agreement is reached on the withdrawal of all foreign armies, Lebanon will not object to discuss with all concerned the question of deploying a UN force in place of the Multinational Force. However,this should come after solving the Lebanese question, not during the crisis, because the UN force cannot adopt the stances requested by Lebanon.

The foreign minister met later with the envoys of the states contributing to the UN emergency force in the south. The meeting was attended by the ambassadors of France, Italy, Ireland, Sweden, and The Netherlands as well as the Norwegian charge d'affaires. Diplomatic sources said the purpose of the meeting was to brief them on domestic and international political developments. The foreign minister told the envoys that Lebanon will not request that their states expand the UN force in the south and deploy it in other areas in Lebanon in order to replace the Multinational Force.

Diplomatic sources added that the talks dealt with the problems facing the UN force in the south and the solutions they propose so that the UN force's role will be more effective.

The talks also dealt with whether any problems face the states which contribute to this force at the UN Security Council in

respect of their current or future role regarding their cooperation with Lebanon in order to eliminate the problems before they become aggravated and reach another phase. The sources said the conferees posed questions to Minister Salim who answered in such a way as to make the envoy's feel as if they were one unit dealing with the Lebanese Government, not individual states. It appeared from the discussion between the foreign minister and envoys that there is no change in the mission of these forces.

Preparations for Security Plan Implementation

Qassis in Damascus

NC031601 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Clashes erupted anew a short while ago in the Al-Kharrub region. Al-Jiyah is now coming under artillery and rocket shelling from the socialist positions in Barja. A unit of the Al-Jiyah thermal plant was knocked out when the plant was subjected to shelling at approximately 1515.

In the mountain, the Junblatt gunmen and their collaborators are now directing their shells on Army positions in Qabr Shmun, 'Ayn Ksur, and Al-Binnay. Meanwhile, intermittent gunfire is now being heard on the Ash-Shuwayfat-Sciences College axis.

In another development, Colonel Simon Qassis held contacts in Damascus today as part of the ongoing preparations for implementation of the security plan.

Implementation Reported Imminent

NC031307 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpts] There is unanimity in the official and private information media today that the security plan is ready for implementation. The plan includes the following points:

1. A cease-fire;

2. Not suspending Security Committee meetings regardless of the reasons.

3. Declaration of Beirut International Airport as a neutral area.

4. Deployment of the Lebanese Army along the coastal line up to the Al-Awwali River.

5. Withdrawal of the Lebanese Forces from the 'Alayh coast, Ash-Shuf, and Al-Kharrub region, and their replacement by Internal Security Forces.

6. Takeover by the Lebanese Army of the military barracks in those areas.

7. Takeover by Internal Security Forces' personnel of security tasks in the southern suburb [of Beirut] while the Army will take over the main roads.

Amal, Salvation Front Approval

NC032227 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri tonight dismissed reports on the existence of reservations about the security plan. Lawyer Birri affirmed that the National Salvation Front and Amal Movement approved the security plan a long time ago. He called on the state to make all parties honor their commitments and embark upon implementing the plan. He warned against an Israeli trap aimed at exploding Lebanon anew and creating armed struggle the dimensions and results of which could never be predicted. He added that the immediate results of the explosion would be the division and fragmentation of Lebanon, which is Israel's principal objective.

PSP Calls For Multinational Force Withdrawal

JN030805 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — In a statement issued last night, the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], called for the Multinational Force's withdrawal from Lebanon so as to avoid more involvement in the domestic Lebanese conflict.

The statement stressed the nationalist forces' insistence on confrontation to defend themselves and safeguard Lebanon's existence and Arabism. The statement confirmed that any solution to the Lebanese crisis not based on a comprehensive poiitical solution will be fragile and not serve Lebanese interests.

Hoseyn Musavi Denounces U.S. Protection of Israel

GF020918 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] One of the Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries, Brother Hoseyn Musavi, said in a speech in the Lebanese capital the day before yesterday that we are now facing a new chapter of imperialist machinations against Islam and the Muslims since the Islamic revolution — led by Imam Khomeyni — has put the United States and France and the other protectors of the Zionist entity in an extreme state of fear and dismay.

He went on to say that through their covert support of the crimes of the Zionist entity, France and the United States have officially proclaimed war on the Muslims of the world. He asserted that the Lebanese people and Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries have escalated their struggle against the Zionist entity, which occupies Jerusalem, and against those Western countries that protect it, and that they will continue the struggle until the final victory of the Islamic revolution and liberation of Lebanon, Palestine, and other Islamic countries are attained.

Brother Musavi denounced the Lebanese regime's decision to sever ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, indicating that the Lebanese Muslims will use all their capabilities to block implementation of that decision.

Reportage on Israeli Air Raid Over Ba'labakk

Initial Casualty Count

NC040922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0910 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Security sources have now told us that the Israeli air raids left 50 people dead and 300 wounded. The Israeli [as heard] forces are now besieging the locality, and the civil defense is removing victims from the rubble. As-Sadr town in Talya has been completely destroyed as a result of the air raids.

Syrians Reported Aiding Victims

NC040935 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0914 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] We have just received the following: Civil defense units and security organs in the Ba'labakk area have begun moving the victims of, the Israeli air raids on Ba'labakk to hospitals in the area.

The latest reports note that 50 people have been killed and 300 wounded. These reports say that the Syrian forces hav cordoned the area and are participating in the evacuation of the wounded. As-Sadr, as well as the gendarmerie post in the city, were destroyed in the air raids.

Update on Casualty Count

NC041028 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Preliminary figures resulting from the Israeli air strikes against targets in Ba'labakk and its vicinity, show that some 60 people have been killed, more than 300 wounded, and many others still buried under the debris. The gendarmerie post, Wayval camp, the slaughter house, and As-Sadr town have been destroyed. Moreover, the L'Alouett Hotel and a gas station owned by 'Ali Muhammad Marsi have been demolished.

Syrians Fire on Ambulances

NC041133 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Security reports say that a Syrian roadblock on the Karak-Ba'labakk Road opened fire on Red Cross ambulances heading toward Ba'labakk to take part in rescue and rubble-lifting operations.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri declared that 73 persons have been killed as a result of the Israeli air raid which was launched against the Ba'labakk area. He added that Israel, through its actions, aims at extinguishing the burning flames of the revolution throughout Lebanon.

Birri said Israel's air raid was targeted against the Muslims and civilians in Al-Biqa' because it felt the date for implementing the security plan — which is not in line with its interests — is approaching.

More Reportage on Israeli Actions in South

Force Leaves Tyre Port

NC031725 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The Israeli force stationed in the port of Tyre withdrew today. It was replaced by gunmen of one of the militias cooperating with Israel.

Government House Presence Continues

NC040950 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] It has transpired that only the Israeli civilian administration has vacated Government House in Sidon, while the intelligence corps and border guards are still there. Furthermore, a vehicle belonging to Sa'd Haddad's forces has withdrawn from the area.

The Israeli forces blocked the coastal road near Sayniq at 0900 after an explosion there.

'Occupation Forces' Desecrate Mosque

NC031505 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The south is continuing its resistance, and the occupation forces are persisting in their defiance of our people's will. This morning the occupation forces raided the Al-Musalli Mosque in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah construction area and committed a new crime by desecrating the mosque with police dogs. Around 0830 today the occupation forces broke the door of the mosque and entered it with police dogs, handled its contents, and broke some of its furniture.

Arens, Levi Visit Gravely Ill Haddad

JN040758 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 0730 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Israeli Defense Minister Arens and the Israeli Chief of Staff Moshe Levi yesterday visited the ailing leader of southern Lebanon Major Sa'd Haddad at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. Maj Haddad is suffering from cancer and his doctors described his condition as extremely grave. Arens called Haddad a Lebanese patriot and a great friend of Israel, who has done a great service to his country and Israel. Maj Haddad's doctors say he is not totally conscious. His wife has been at his bedside for 2 days.

Arab Group Said Responsible for France Blasts

NC021549 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The Arab Struggle Organization [munazzamat al-kifah al-'arabi] today claimed from Tripoli, Lebanon responsibility for two explosions which occurred in southern France on New Year's Eve.

Spokesman on Israeli Raids on Lebanese Areas

JN040913 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus, 4 Jan (SANA) — A military spokesman has stated the following: For the second day running, the Israeli enemy bombed the nationalist movement's positions in Lebanon. At 0800 today, 4 January 1984, a formation of Israeli planes raided some of these positions in Ba'labakk and the adjacent residential areas, using delayed-action bombs. As a result of this raid, 17 civilians were martyred, 106 wounded, and others are still missing under the rubble. Our defense means in the area confronted the enemy planes and forced them to return toward the occupied territory.

Interview Reported With Jackson, U.S. Pilot

JN032020 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Interview with Jesse Jackson and U.S. pilot Robert Goodman by unidentified television correspondent; conducted in English with superimposed announcer-read report in Arabic: date and place not specified — video recorded]

[Text] In response to a question at the beginning of the interview regarding his visit to Syria and his impressions of his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, the Reverend Jesse Jackson said:

This is one of the great moments in my life. I met previously with President Hafiz al-Asad. During my meeting, President al-Asad was cordial and generous. We held detailed talks, and I believe that President al-Asad deserves respect and appreciation from U.S. leaders, because his desire for peace is deep rooted. I harbor all love and respect for him and for the Syrian people. I would like to say that the release of the pilot Goodman out of mercy and humanitarianism has ended pain and realized some progress despite the fact that no Syrian pilot flew over U.S. territory who could be exchanged for the U.S. pilot. All the future U.S. presidents have commitments based on their national interests and they should exchange visits with the heads of state in the Middle East countries. There is no doubt that many dangers will arise if facts in the Middle East are ignored. Jackson added:

The United States has moral, economic, geographical, political, military, and industrial interests in this region. There are also many reasons that make it incumbent on the United States to work out a plan for cooperation with the 21 states in the region.

In response to a question regarding his feelings after his release and return to his country, the pilot Robert Goodman said: I am very happy and my return home will give me much happiness. I would like to express my pleasure at the good treatment I received in Syria. I was well treated under the circumstances I passed through. I am very pleased that President Hafiz al-Asad allowed me to return home.

Concluding his talk to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian people, Goodman said: I was lucky in the way the Syrians treated me, and it is important to say that despite the great differences between Syria and the United States, the Syrian people have the ability to treat individuals as individuals and human beings and this is very important.

Jackson, Goodman Leave Damascus 3 January

JN032021 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Reverend Jesse Jackson left Damascus this evening following a visit of several days to the country. While here, Jackson met with President Hafiz al-Asad. Departing with him on board the same plane was U.S. pilot Robert Goodman, who was released this morning.

Iranian Assistant Foreign Minister Arrives

JN032028 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Hoseyn Sheikh ol-Eslam, Iranian assistant foreign minister, arrived in Damascus this evening. He brings a written message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent upon arrival, Sheikh ol-Eslam expressed his delight at visiting Syria. He said: I bring a message to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad from the Iranian president dealing with the coming Islamic summit conference, which is due to meet in Morocco later this month. The message also deals with the topics of discussion during the conference, the most important of which are Arab and Islamic issues, particularly the Palestine question. He added that his visit to Syria comes within the framework of consultations and the exchange of viewpoints between the two countries' officials regarding the latest political developments in the region and the escalating U.S. hegemony and its expansionist and aggressive designs. The Iranian assistant foreign minister spoke highly of Syria's constant pan-Arab stands under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, its confrontation of Israeli and U.S. aggression, and its defense of the Arab nation's honor and integrity.

Commentary on U.S. Hostility Toward Arabs, Syria

JN031456 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States is implementing an Israeli decision in the region. With these few words, President Hafiz al-Asad summarized all the U.S. efforts and endeavors which fall within the historic framework of the increasing U.S. hostility toward the Arab nation.

The Reagan administration has vowed for the past 3 years to carry out all the Zionist ambitions. For this purpose, the United States has adopted a method from which the American people suffered much in Vietnam, Cuba, and Iran. Syria, with its genuine pan-Arabism, its leading role in the Arab liberation movement, and its people's will under a brave leader who is distinguished for wisdom and strength, is capable of teaching the aggressors lesson after lesson. While it is concentrating fleets, concluding strategic agreements with Israel, and planning for the return of alliances and ties to the region, the United States ignores a fact of which it should be reminded. This country,

which has assumed a mission known to be a difficult and hard, is determined to defend its borders and every particle of Arab soil, just as it is determined to regain every usurped Arab right in Lebanon, the Golan Heights, or the Palestinian land.

For this purpose, Syria has drawn all the plans required to foil the capitulatory schemes and attempts to undermine Arab rights, including the Camp David accords and Shultz plan. As the United States considers the policy of the gunboat and plane as a method for replying to the just Arab demands, Syria is confident in its ability to freeze all the sources of fire aimed at its land and soldiers who are defending their homeland and Arabism in Lebanon.

While the United States believes that the peace it seeks is Israel's peace, and while it exploits all its military and diplomatic potentials to achieve that objective, why does the Reagan administration consider Syria's positions as strange at a time when it knows that Syria is a pan-Arab fortress for all the Arabs and that its strength and will are derived from the Arab nation's masses in all their countries?

As leader Al-Asad has confirmed, the United States is using its guns for an immoral and false cause, and sends its soldiers to places far from U.S. territory and borders not to support peace, but to assure the Zionist leadership that a superpower backs it and that the Arabs should accept the Israeli-U.S. will in return for granting them an unequal and imbalanced friendship with that superpower.

The Reagan administration might find in some Arabs' friendship with the United States pretexts and justifications for its aggressive behavior against Syria and the Arab issues.

But this administration has forgotten that this is an age of peoples, and that any setback in political and military balances will be in the interest of the masses and human progress. This might be one of the lessons that the United States learned during its immoral confrontations in Vietnam, Cuba, and Iran.

Syria's determination to adhere to its right to use force to support its will and its decision to promote right in accordance with international will does not mean that Syria rejects a dialogue that will realize a just and lasting peace.

As a member of the United Nations, Syria has accepted the international charter as a judge and a way to peace, and by accepting the General Assembly resolutions, Syria sought peace. But due to its organic ties to the Zionist movement and Israeli objectives, the United States has paralyzed the international community's will, and used its military force as a tool for disrupting an independent Arab state; namely, Lebanon, because the United States wants to carry out Israel's decisions.

In light of these facts, has the United States any right to describe Syria's positions as extreme and claim that its military presence in the region is aimed at achieving peace? As long as U.S. policy sees the facts through Zionist eyes, the United States should expect dissatisfaction in the Arab land, because the Arabs have a just cause and the U.S. guns are being used to realize an immoral and false objective.

Commentary on 'Urgent Task' of Pan-Arab Forces

JN011510 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text]Gentlemen, with the beginning of the new year, extremely important developments have crystallized in the interest of Syria and its heroic and steadfast stand regarding the continuous battles against the Zionist enemy and the imperialist forces that support it. Through the sacrifices of its sons in fraternal Lebanon, these forces recognized our country's ability to confront them and foil their plans and objectives. Despite the current Arab situation and most ruling Arab regimes' relinquishment of their major pan-Arab responsibility, namely to stand as one rank in a pan-Arab battle against the enemy, Syria, through its valiant confrontation of the U.S. and Zionist aggressors,was able to prove that the Arab nation is a live and immortal nation — a nation that possesses all the means to safeguard its existence and pan-Arab entity, and a nation that is able to surmount all negative domestic situations and confront all foreign challenges regardless of the number of their parties and the size of their forces.

At the end of the past year, the leaders of our imperialist and Zionist enemies discussed what they called the growing Syrian force. Through their alliance, they have drawn up hostile military plans to confront and foil this force, or at least to alleviate its growing effectiveness. Those aggressors did not realize that Syria's possession of military power and combat skills are among the pillars of this force, but not all of them, nor did they realize that Syria's strength is based on its sound pan-Arab stand, its awareness of the reality of conflict with the enemy, and its embodiment of our nation's aspirations for struggling against the enemy on the basis of the real situation and the natural map of that conflict.

With the beginning of the new year, Syria will enjoy more firmness, resoluteness, and insistence on its militant stand. If Syria has succeeded during past years in confirming the Arab nation's militant identity, it will further promote this success, namely to mobilize all the nation's potentials in the battles of honor and heroism agaisnt the Zionist enemy and its imperialist U.S. supporters. Syria is aware of the size of dangers for the march of the pan-Arab struggle, beginning with the attempts to spread the spirit of weakness and defeatism in Arab political life, passing through the attempts to liquidate the Palestinian question, and ending with the attempts to put all forms of pressure on Syria to make it deviate from its militant stand.

However, Syria surmounted something more serious than those dangers when it confronted the conspiracy of Camp David, confronted the forces of the Zionist enemy in Lebanon bravely and heroically, and sacrificed and is still sacrificing the blood of its sons. The most important thing that we must do with the beginning of the new year is to confront the new and the old conspiracy that is aimed at liquidating the Palestinian question. This conspiracy has been exposed through Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his exposed moves to peddle the capitulatory solution on the basis of the Reagan plan with the support of the U.S. forces of aggression that are present in Lebanon. The liquidation

of this conspiracy is the urgent task of the forces of the pan-Arab struggle, foremost being Syria.

If 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his new moves reflect the state of failure of the hostile U.S. plans in the Arab region, they also reflect the need for boistering pan-Arab struggle against all future alternative plans. Of course, Syria will continue to be the basic force in the battle against the nation's enemies, their plans, and designs. Syria is aware of its militant fate and responsibilities. Moreover, Syria is aware of the sacrifices, but for the sake of the nation's dignity and glory, Syria will not hesitate to offer more sacrifices. It will continue to be as it has always been, the struggling Syria, the generous Syria, the Arabic Syria, and Al-Asad's Syria.

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Air Force Attacks Terrorist Bases in Ba'labakk
TA040636 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0635 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Here is an announcement by the IDF spokesman: Air Force planes this morning attacked two terrorist bases in the Ba'labakk area in the northern Al-Biqa'. The bases were used for training and for launching attacks, and they housed terrorists linked to Iran. All our planes returned safely. Our pilots reported good hits on the targets. This was the IDF's spokesman announcement.

Our military correspondent adds some details: the two bases were seized by the terrorist organizations a few months ago and they started to use them for training and for launching attacks.One of the bases is located in a camp of the Lebanese gendarmerie about 1.5 km south of Ba'labakk. The second base is located in a building which had in the past been a hotel about 5 km southwest of Ba'labakk.

Economic Committee Agrees on 9 Percent Cutback
TA031535 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs ended a short while ago, and our correspondent reports that the ministers agreed on a nine percent cutback in all ministries. The committee will reconvene on Friday.

Kohen-Orgad Expresses 'Satisfaction'
TA031644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] By the end of the week, every Cabinet minister must prepare a proposal for a cut of 9 percent from his ministry's budget. This was decided a short time ago by the Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs, which had to prepare the framework for the new budget. The committee will meet again on Friday, 6 January, to discuss the ministers' proposals.

Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad expressed satisfaction to our correspondent Gadi Sukenik about the decision. He said there is no alternative now to cuts in all the ministries, including health, welfare, and education. However, Deputy Minister Benziyon Rubin, TAMI, said his ministry, the Ministry of Labor and Welfare, would not be able to stand such a large cut, and he would propose other ways to collect money from the public.

However, he did promise that his ministry would make an attempt at the required cut. Agriculture Minister Pesah Grupper also said he would make every attempt to carry out the decision. Our correspondent comments that the serious fight over the cuts in the ministerial budgets has been postponed for several days.

At the beginning of the Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs' meeting, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi rebuked the governor of the Bank of Israel for his proposal to pass a law which would stop the government flooding the economy with money.

Cut Causes Defense Concern
TA040742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] In the defense establishment it is feared that the huge budget cut might hurt security, perhaps making it necessary to decrease the size of the regular army. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the cuts will harm essentials such as training, the purchase and replenishment of equipment, manpower, and construction. Consultations will begin today in the defense establishment following the decision of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs to cut 9 percent from all ministry budgets.

POST on Budget Situation
TA040956 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jan 84 p 8

[Editorial: "Our Sick Political Economy"]

[Text] In December, the Treasury printed the staggering amount of IS28 billion — nearly half the sum which the finance minister wants to cut from government spending in the whole of fiscal 1984.

The news may be shocking, but it could hardly have come as a surprise. Shocking, because we already know that no one really plans to cut actual government spending, and that all the cuts for which Mr Kohen-Orgad must still do battle with his fellow ministers are over the elimination of planned increases in outlays. Shocking, too, because even these have already been whittled down from the original $1b. proposed by Mr Kohen-Orgad to $600m. Shocking also because the planned redistribution of government expenditures is to be carried out in cynical disregard of social justice.

Finally, it is shocking because it suggests that none of the objectives which this newest of new economic policies has set itself will be achieved. That is why Bank of Israel Governor Moshe Mandelbaum has now come out for a law to prevent the government from printing the cash it is intent on spending.

Yet while shocking, it is not surprising, because when the economy is heading into a recession under the impact of measures the government has taken since October, the first thing to dry up is government revenues. With fewer imports, particularly of the kind that carry very high taxes, there is less revenue from customs duties and the like. With business slowing down, less value added tax is collected.

But while tax revenue is falling, the government must in the short run go on spending as before. Virtually all its expenditures in the short run are contractual commitments that cannot be evaded. Moreover, with the rate of inflation we now have, any effective control of outlays becomes impossible, and the result is printing money on a massive scale.

This injection of cash into the economy last month was actually predicted in the policy document Mr. Kohen-Orgad placed on the Cabinet table last week, which states frankly that government revenues are expected to decline.

The truth of the matter is that this government is bound to political commitments that are beyond the resources of the country — in Lebanon, in settling the West Bank, and, above all, in keeping the coalition together.

Therefore, the battle that is still being fought in the Cabinet over implementation of the budget cuts is likely to be a stage battle, intended to keep this government in power for a few months more, rather than to extricate the country from crisis.

28 Billion Shekels Channeled Into Economy in Dec

TA021741 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Last month the government channeled 28 billion shekels into the economy, of which only 3 billion shekels were intended for the absorption of bank shares. Senior Bank of Israel officials told our correspondent that they are most concerned by this enormous sum of money. Our correspondent notes that the government has in effect completed the quota it set itself 3 months before the year ended. At the same time, foreign currency reserves have risen by $183 million, although our correspondent points out that this increase presumably derives from the receipt of aid money funds from the United States.

Annual Economic Statistics Released; Deficit Rises

TA301125 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] This year's deficit in the balance of payments totalled $5.1 billion. This is a rise of $400 million compared with the 1982 deficit. From data from the Central Bureau of Statistics at the end of this year it emerges that the gross national product rose by less than 1 percent. The increase in personal consumption continued, rising by 7 percent; defense consumption dropped by 3 percent. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein comments that a great rise was noted in Israelis' spending abroad, a rise of 22 percent. This year's defense imports dropped by 38 percent, whereas imports of foreign products rose by 12 percent. The price of goods and services rose an average 143 percent compared with 115 percent in 1982.

Defense Minister Arens on Territories Situation

TA031643 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that the possibility of deporting stone throwers in the territories will be examined. At a meeting with members of the Likud Knesset faction, the defense minister said the possibility of altering the regulations for opening fire would also be examined. Here is a report by our correspondent Sha'ul Stav:

[Stav — live in studio] At his meeting with the Likud Knesset faction members, the defense minister concentrated his remarks on the prevailing situation in Judaea and Samaria. Minister Arens pointed out that despite the Arab population's political and economic dissatisfaction, these feelings were accompanied by an acceptance of the existing situation. This acceptance has come after the ferment and instability which gave birth to the Camp David agreements.

Minister Arens commented that it was a fact that the settlements were a factor undermining stability, because the centers of dispute with the Arab population were expanding. There are more Jewish targets, Minister Arens said, more settlements, more children on the road, and more Israeli vehicles. The defense minister pointed out that the phenomenon of stone throwing was concentrated in the Balatah and Ad-Duhayshah camps, Al-Birah and the Nabulus Clock square. He said Israel was not prepared to accept the phenomenon of stone throwing, which was jeopardizing human lives. We are trying to improve the deterrent measures, and make the punishment measures more severe, the defense minister said. There is a plan in Ad-Duhayshah to move the houses which are close to the road further away. If this plan is implemented, the inhabitants will be compensated. The possibility is also being examined of altering the regulations for opening fire. We believe in certain norms, the minister said, and I hope we will not be forced to behave in a different way.

Minister Arens also referred to the issue of deporting stone throwers. This possibility is also being considered, but even if it is approved, it will face various pressures. We must provide advance warning, we must permit appeals to an appeals committee, and there is the right to appeal to the High Court of Justice. There may also be a change in legislation to alter this process.

Minister Arens also referred to the question of the defense budget. There are no differences of opinion between me and Kohen-Orgad, he said, but we must decide whether we want to go on with videos, cars, and color televisions, and cut the defense budget, or actually act differently by cutting the superfluous and keeping the level of security.

Arens on 'TNT' Group

TA031924 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today that Israeli society has not created the tools with which to cope with the TNT [Terror Against Terror] group. He was reviewing the situation in the territories for Likud faction members.

Arens said that two elements had undermined stability in Judaea and Samaria: the Camp David accords, which created the feelingof a temporary Israeli rule, and the settlements, which created a proliferation of Jewish targets for the stone throwers.

Minister Arens said that more and more people now believe that the most effective way to combat stone trhrowing is to deport those responsible. At the same time, he noted that the judicial system may well block deporting such people, and it might be necessary to pass special legislation in this respect.

Village Leagues Want Dialogue With W. Bank Mayors

TA020952 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Jan 84 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The Village Leagues in the West Bank have started an attempt to create links with supporters of Jordan in the territories, such as Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and Rashad ash-Shawwa, the dismissed mayor of Gaza.

In the latest edition of the Village Leagues' paper *AL-MIR'A*, Hebron Village League leader Jamil al-'Amlah writes that the leagues are open "to all directions" and he praises 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak in a manner similar to statements made by Frayj and Ash-Shawwa. He mentions them by name as examples of the type of people with whom the leagues want to create a front.

Our correspondent points out that there is almost no chance of Frayj and Ash-Shawwa condescending to form such a front with the leagues, because they are among the leagues' bitterest opponents and do not credit them with any political importance whatsoever.

Ash-Shawwa Discusses Territories

TA020657 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Former Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa believes Arab extremists threw the grenade at his house over the weekend to try to silence him and others who share his view. Interviewed on Israel television last night, Ash-Shawwa came up for a return of the territories to Jordan and Egypt.

[Begin Ash-Shawwa recording] I would accept, and the people here would accept anything to get rid of Israeli officials. If this should mean that Gaza Strip returns, according to Resolution 242, to Egypt, and the West Bank to Jordan, a coordination can be made between Egypt and Jordan and the Palestinians represented by the PLO, by Yasir 'Arafat, to create some sort of bloc between the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jordan. [end recording]

IDF Planning New Deployment in Lebanon

TA031757 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The IDF is currently formulating an overall plan pertaining to its deployment in Lebanon. For the moment, efforts are being made to reduce the vulnerability of our forces in Lebanon, especially in Sidon. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal has just returned from there:

[Begin Tal Recording] The IDF, in Sidon in particular and in southern Lebanon in general, is reassessing its deployment and formulating plans which will be submitted to the Cabinet. Until a decision is made on what orders to issue to the IDF, and how it is to deploy, the army is doing all it can to ward off attacks. No unnecessary units are being left in Sidon. Today, the evacuation of the (Saraya) building was completed. Up to now, the civilian assistance unit was located there. IDF forces do patrol the town, and these are effective, light forces, made up of men from elite units.

Today it is clearer than ever before that the Al-Awwali line is not hermetically sealed, and hostile activity does exist, as proved by the rising number of attacks. The IDF's discussions on its deployment will no doubt be followed by Cabinet sessions, and then the army will be told where it is heading in Lebanon. [end recording]

Al-Awwali Strongholds Criticized

TA031954 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] IDF officers are criticizing the high financial cost of building the new line of strongholds along the Al-Awwali River. The officers say that terrorist infiltration into southern Lebanon could have been prevented by other measures whose cost would have been far less. Today, our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky toured the strongholds along the Al-Awwali River and in Sidon:

[Begin videotape] [Shlonsky] The cost of the line of strongholds along the Al-Awwali River is $30 million. Three months after the evacuation of the Ash-Shuf area and the IDF deployment along the line, officers are saying: We could have controlled the line better and more cheaply. Official IDF elements stress that the Al-Awwali line is not the Bar-Lev line. That was not the objective. There is a combination of early-warning systems, lookout posts, and of course, defense of the soldiers along the line. Some are saying it could have been done differently, more efficiently, and in a less routine way. In any event, the terrorists prefer the offficial passes over the Al-Awwali River and, from there, to Sidon, instead of crossing the river's cold water. Terrorist tools and weapons await them in Sidon; there is no shortage of these in southern Lebanon.

'Master Plan' to Shamir

TA040524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi will today present to Prime Minister Shamir a master plan for the continued deployment of the Israeli army in Lebanon.

The army radio said the plan includes the transfer of control in southern Lebanon to local elements, elements that share a common interest with Israel, and to the forces of militia leader Sa'd Haddad. The plan is based on a renewed assessment of the Israeli army's continued presence in Lebanon and concentrates on securing Israel's norhtern border.

Prime Minister Shamir will be asked to approve the plan so that the army can begin steps necessary for its execution. The plan will later be submitted to the government for its approval.

Further on Deployment Plan

TA040842 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jan 84 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Defense Minister Arens and Chief of Staff Levi are to present the master plan for IDF deployment in Lebanon to the prime minister today. The plan was recently presented to Arens, who gave it his blessing. It envisages handing over control of southern Lebanon to local forces (Shi'ite, Christian, and other elements whose interests are the same as Israel's), international forces (UN, UNIFIL, and Multinational Force), and Haddad's militia. According to the plan, the IDF is to leave liaison officers to provide local elements with Israeli backing.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent points out that the overall plan is based on a reassessment of the continuation of the IDF presence in Lebanon and that it focuses on ensuring security along Israel's northern border. The plan also details the various effects the continuation of the IDF presence in Lebanon might have on the IDF, i.e. on the level of training, maintenance, and the preparedness of units stationed in Lebanon. The plan says that Syria remains a belligerent country with which there is hardly any chance of reaching a settlement.

The prime minister will be asked to approve the overall plan in order to enable the IDF to take the steps it envisages. The plan will then be presented to the whole Cabinet.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent notes that a senior IDF source said this week that the IDF would leave Lebanon when — and if — the various forces in the south with which Israel maintains ties are prepared to carry out policing activities in place of the IDF. The IDF will, however, continue to maintain a permanent presence in the south even after it withdraws to the international border, in accordance with the changing security needs in the region.

Details of Planned Redeployment

TA040904 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jan 84 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Yosef Walter, and Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] Israel is now striving to reduce its military presence in southern Lebanon and to create alternate security arrangements in the area. Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi will submit today the ideas emerging for the deployment in southern Lebanon to the prime minister.

The Cabinet, in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, will soon hold a debate on the plan to change Israel's deployment in southern Lebanon.

The main points of this plan are: Deployment in strategic locations which would ensure the security of the northern settlements and which would, to the extent possible, limit friction with the urban population in Lebanon, particularly in Sidon, in light of the prevailing fear of attacks and a deterioration in the relations with the inhabitants following the imposition of stricter security measures.

Despite the reduced Israeli presence in southern Lebanon, senior sources at the political-security level explained that it is still premature to talk about the IDF's departure from southern Lebanon, although that is the goal the government is striving to achieve.

It is thought in Jerusalem that the senior political-security level has actually given up the principle that the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon should be conditional on the simultaneous evacuation of the Syrian troops because they believe the evacuation of the Syrian forces in the framework of a political process does not stand a reasonable chance.

The tendency is emerging in deliberations within the defense establishment on the extent of the IDF line in southern Lebanon — particularly in the western sector and in part of the central sector — to withdraw to 20-25 km from the "purple line" (the international Israeli-Lebanese border) and to settle in this area until security for the Galilee is guaranteed without Israeli control over this strip in Lebanon.

It is becoming evident that some of the war's objectives (driving the Syrians out of Lebanon, ensuring a stable Lebanese Government, and driving all the terrorists out of Lebanon) have not been achieved and, precisely because of that, there is no longer any sense in remaining in areas that are not opposite the Syrians (in the western and central sectors). Therefore, it would be better to deploy the IDF along a new line which would at least guarantee the basic objective of the war: security peace for the Galilee. Plans are to fix a line that can be easily maintained, that does not control too large an area, but that is beyond the range of Katyushas.

In deliberations over the planning of our deployment it is noted that it was not the latest terrorist attacks in Sidon that led to plans for a new deployment because it is clear to all that the IDF is a target for attacks regardless of its location, either in Sidon or elsewhere. There have been no deliberations about the line the IDF maintains opposite the Syrian Army. The IDF troops on this line are as near as 28 km from the capital, Damascus, and this represents an advantage for Israel. On the other hand, it seems that changes are also likely in this line if an arrangement is found between Israel and Syria.

No Sidon Withdrawal Planned

TA040546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The Israeli army reportedly has no plans to pull back from the Lebanese city of Sidon in the near future. Reporter Hayim Hecht says senior defense officials made this clear yesterday at a meeting with Sidon leaders. The officials said the army would increase its presence in the city and find ways to overcome the recent wave of attacks on Israeli troops there.

Unilateral Withdrawal Not Contemplated

TA041107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Israel is no longer contemplating a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned from authoritative sources in the defense establishment. They said that the Israeli, U.S., and Lebanese Governments are now discussing the question of how to impose the Lebanese Government's sovereignty over all of Lebanon, including plans to reduce the IDF's presence in the south.

PLO Ousted From Druze Areas in Ash-Shuf

TA040942 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Metulla — Most of the PLO forces that moved into Lebanon's Ash-Shuf mountains following the Israel Defence Forces' withdrawal last year have been expelled from the Druze villages in the area, military sources say.

There are PLO concentrations along the Beirut-Damascus road — some in the area bombed yesterday by the Israel Air Force.

The sources said it was made clear to the Ash-Shuf Druze that Israel would like to see the PLO out of the Ash-Shuf.

The sources say there are very few PLO forces in the Druze villages immediately north of the Al-Awwali River. The IDF is maintaining its patrols north of the Al-Awwali and will continue them. The idea is more to show an IDF presence in the area than to carry out any operative tasks.

This morning a Lebanese civilian team is to enter the area between Israeli and Syrian positions on the eastern front to repair a water pipeline that supplies most of the villages in the area. The repair work is being done with Israel's agreement.

Ties With Shi'ites Fostered

TA031147 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Israel is making efforts to develop ties with the moderate southern Lebanese Shi'ite groups, hoping they will join other forces in the task of policing southern Lebanon.

A senior security source wished to make it clear that the contacts with the Shi'ites are aimed at guaranteeing a situation whereby pro-Israeli elements have control over southern Lebanon so that IDF soldiers can then return to the international border.

He emphasized that there is no intention to have the Shi'ites secure peace for the Galilee, but only to prevent terrorist activities from being carried out from areas the IDF will evacuate.

This will in any case indirectly contribute to the security of the Galilee settlements.

Egypt's Ghali Interviewed on Israeli Relations, PLO

TA301138 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 83 Weekend Supplement

[Interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali by Cairo correspondent Semadar Peri; date and place not given]

[Text] Ghali: First of all, I would like to make it clear to the Israeli public that we do not intend to act behind its back or to cheat Israel. President Mubarak conferred with Yasir 'Arafat, and they held a lengthy talk. We will now do all we can to get the peace process out of its deep freeze, and to create a new momentum.

Question: Was a plan for action consolidated in the wake of that meeting?

Answer: Certainly. We believe in the possibility of establishing dialogue between 'Arafat and the Jordanian Government, of having them find a common formula. Then it will be Israel's turn. The plan is divided into stages: Initially, we will establish a dialoguebetween 'Arafat and Jordan, and later we will conduct negotiations with Israel to secure its participation.

Question: And what if Israel refuses to participate?

Answer: We will ask the United States for help; we will ask Washington to exert persuasion.

Question: But you could learn about the Israeli position from the reaction to the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting.

Answer: We followed the reaction from here. There were complex reactions, including that of MAPAM, which took a positive view. Other Israelis did not recognize the positive aspects — and that is a pity.

Question: Which positive aspects?

Answer: Allow me to quote President Mubarak, who described 'Arafat as a "moderate leader."

Question: 'Arafat a moderate? After all, he invited President Mubarak to pray in Jerusalem and he has never statedthat he would be willing to recognize the existence of theState of Israel.

Answer: 'Arafat is definitely a moderate leader. As for recognition, we will strive to achieve mutual recognition. It is inconceivable that he should recognize your existence while you ignore him.

Question: Israel did not conceal its anger over the meeting in Cairo, and argued that President Mubarak would radicalize his position toward Israel in the wake of the talk with 'Arafat. Meanwhile, you are still angry about the strategic agreement between Israel and the United States. Why is that?

Answer: That is right, we were very angry. Egypt contended that Israel got the agreement without being asked to give anything in return to the Palestinians. Indeed, since October 1978

and later in October 1980 you were asked to embrace processes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to improve the condition of the inhabitants, and to refrain from harming their rights, but nothing has yet materialized. It was our impression that the Americans were unilaterally inclined toward Israel and identifying with only one side. Given this state of affairs, when the Americans assumed the role of mediator, negotiations were hindered and became cumbersome.

Question: Now there is anger on both sides: Israel is angry about the meeting with 'Arafat, and Egypt is angry about the strategic agreement with Israel. How does one conduct negotiations in a state of anger?

Answer: It is definitely true that Egypt thinks Israel will be a tough partner to negotiate with.

Question: What is your plan?

Answer: We do not intend to keep the details secret, and we will not act behind Israel's back. We intend to bring a Jordanian delegation, which would include Palestinian representatives, to the negotiating table. If we fail to reach a common formula between Jordan and the Palestinians, we will include the Palestinians in our delegation.

Question: And what about 'Arafat?

Answer: Yasir 'Arafat will not participate in the delegation. The inhabitants of the of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will receive a mandate from the PLO.

Question: Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the success of this plan?

Answer: This question cannot be answered with such adjectives. My reply is: We have no other choice; we must resume the negotiations, or else there will be no peace in the area.

Question: Could you tell us some details about the things 'Arafat told President Mubarak? Did he talk about Israel? How does he regard our government's position regarding his organization?

Answer: I am not ready to say even one word. What counts is that 'Arafat came to Egypt despite our peace treaty with Israel.

Question: If you intend to bring Israel to the negotiating table,would it not be better to tell us the details so as to create a dialogue? After all, relations between Israel and Egypt are at rock bottom.

Answer: Relations could be improved at once. If you accept this new initiative, this will be a good way to raise the level of relations at once; after all, we share a common interest.

Question: Until that happens, will the cold peace prevail and will Egypt curb Israeli attempts to maintain a normal and regular daily relationship?

Answer: The fact that we would be working together to solve the Palestinian problems is ten times more important than low-scale economic transactions. Achieving peace in the area is 100 times more important than tourism exchanges. We, in Egypt, have the political goodwill for this. The question is what the Israeli position is on the matter.

Question: Let us go back to mutual relations. You are drawing up a poltiical plan which, due to circumstances, will spread over many weeks. Meanwhile — and notwithstanding the manifest Egyptian desire to enlist Israel in resuming the negotiations — you have not sent a new Egyptian ambassador to Israel.

Answer: Look, we are ready to fill the empty peace with content, there is no problem. However, past experience tells us that Israel is not very interested in taking care of the Palestinian problem.

The autonomy talks lasted 3 years and nothing came out of them. This leads to the simple conclusion that we want to solve the Palestinian problem and you do not. In fact, this is the source of the differences of opinion. It is no problem to restore relations to a high profile, but the big move must come first.

Question: You talk about communication, a dialogue, and big plans, and these are grandiloquent words both in our and your world. I have a simple question: Why does President Mubarak not pick up the phone and call Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir?

Answer: You ask why President Mubarak does not call Prime Minister Shamir, and I will pose you the same question the other way round: If Israel is really interested, if your prime minister wants to hear and to be heard — why then does Prime Minister Shamir not phone President Mubarak and talk to him?

Joint U.S.-Israeli Group To Meet Late January

TA040944 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jan 84 p 2

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv — The U.S.-Israel political-military working group of senior American and Israeli defence and foreign affairs officials will meet in Washington during the last week of January. It will start working on long-term cooperative projects as called for in the agreement reached between President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last month.

The meeting will last only two or three days, a senior defence source told military correspondents yesterday. He said he expected decisions to form sub-committees to consider fields of cooperation. One of these is the pre-positioning of U.S. emergency stores in Israel, the source said.

Political issues such as the recent meetings between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat will not be discussed.

Short-term subjects, such as the policy on Lebanon, are likely to come up only in the context of long-range scenarios, he indicated.

The Israeli delegation will be headed by Defence Ministry Director-General Menahem Meron, whose previous assignment was military attache in the U.S. and Hanan Bar-On of the Foreign Ministry.

The American team will be headed by Admiral Jonathan Howe, who is on loan to the State Department where he is director of the department's Political-Military Affairs Unit.

The source said that the imminent visit of the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Vessey Jr. has nothing to do with the meeting in Washington. The general is coming to acquaint himself with the Israel Defence Forces and no agreements are expected.

Histadrut's Meshel Criticizes Kohen-Orgad Policy

TA030838 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jan 84 p 1

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv — Histadrut Secretary-General Yeroham Meshel last night accused Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad of acting dishonourably and indecently in raising the prices of basic commodities.

Meshel also reiterated his opposition to any package deal with the government, but said he was ready to reach "arrangements" on various topics.

His reaction seemed much milder than that of other senior Histadrut officials.

Meshel' grievance with Kohen-Orgad was that prices were raised as soon as it was too late to compensate workers for increases in the cost-of-living allowance payment. The cost-of-living allowance is to be raised with the pay cheques for this month on the bases of price rises until December 31. Thus wage earners are likely to be compensated for further increases only with April's pay cheques.

The Labour Federation spokesman last night quoted Meshel as saying the Histadrut will "consider appropriate steps" regarding the price rises, but nothing concrete has yet been proposed.

Meshel maintained his strong opposition to a package deal — although the Likud faction in the Histadrut claims he has no authority to do so.

Likud faction leaders Ya'aqov Shamay, Zevulun Shalish and Daniyel Nahmani said yesterday that Meshel's pronouncement were invalid because the Labour Federation's executive had not discussed the matter. They called for an immediate debate in the executive on the proposed package deal.

Meshel appeared to welcome such a debate, arguing that it would give his faction the opportunity to explain why the Histadrut would not join hands with the government.

He argued that a package deal required a "social contract" and that there was no room for that with the Likud government.

The Histadrut oppoees a package deal also because it would be likely to entail a wage freeze. Speaking in Zikhron Ya'aqov yesterday, Histadrut Trade Union Department head Israel Qeysar said experience had shown that even when there was a formal agreement between the government, the private employers and the Histadrut to freeze wages, taxes and prices, merchants and producers found ways to raise prices. The government continued printing money and the only ones who really paid were the workers whose wages were frozen, he said.

Briefs

Population Rise in 1983 — Israel's population grew by 78,000, or 1.9 percent, last year, to about 4,140,000, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Satistics. About 3,430,000 of the population is Jewish, an increase of 58,000 over 1982. The non-Jewish population rose by some 20,000, to 710,000. Some 28,000 deaths were registered in 1983 (25,000 Jews), and 98,700 births (75,000 Jews). According to the bureau's estimates, the fertility rate of Jewish women continued to increase in 1983, reaching an average of 2.85 children per woman, compared with 2.79 in 1982. Among the non-Jewish population, there was a continued downward trend in the fertility rate, with an estimated average of 4.65 children per woman, as compared with 4.97 in 1982. [Text] [Jerusalem *THE JERUSALEM POST* in English 4 Jan 84 p 3 TA]

Communications Ministry Official Resigns — Communications Ministry Director General Eli Baraq has informed Minister Mordekhay Tzipori that he is resigning. The background for the move is, according to senior ministry officials, both professional and personal, involving disputes with the minister on both planes. [Summary] [Tel Aviv *'AL HAMISHMAR* in Hebrew 3 Jan 84 p 1 TA]

OAU Efforts Fail on Western Sahara Referendum

AB301814 Paris AFP in English 1732 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Addis Ababa, Dec 30 (AFP) — All attempts by the Organization of African Unity to obtain the referendum on Western Sahara urged by the OAU summit in June have failed, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde said here today.

He placed the blame at the doorstep of Morocco which, he said, had shown no willingness to negotiate directly with the Polisario guerilla front, its opponent in the eight-year battle for control of the former Spanish colony.

The OAU agreed at its summit that there should be direct talks between the two sides, leading to a ceasefire and a referendum on the future of the territory under OAU and United Nations auspices by the end of this year. The OAU chairman subsequently called a meeting of the Seven-Nation Implementation Committee on Western Sahara here in September. But the meeting collapsed less than 24 hours after it had begun when the Moroccan delegation refused to sit down with its Polisario counterpart.

Morocco has said it is not averse to the referendum, but has been adamant in its rejection of direct talks with the Polisario. The guerrilla movement, on the other hand, believes no referendum is possible unless the parties to the conflict agree in advance on the specifics leading to it.

The June summit named the parties to the conflict for the first time, whereas previous OAU meetings simply referred to "the parties" because of Rabat's insistence that Algeria, the Polisario's strongest backer, was in fact responsible for the war in Western Sahara.

Mr Goshu said today that OAU member states must realize that the Western Sahara problem remained one of Africa's "most serious."

The OAU chairman was deeply saddened over the impasse, he said, and urged all member nations to do all in their power to create a climate that could save the pan-African organization from possible disintegration.

(Meanwhile a Polisario communique published in Algiers said today that front forces has attacked an important concentration of Moroccan troops east of Boucraa, inflicting serious losses in men and material. The fighting at Kheshbiyin, 70 kilometers (45 miles) from Boucraa, lasted all day yesterday, the communique said. The Moroccans had finally withdrawn in "total disarray and disorder," having lost more than 100 men killed and a large number wounded. Around 60 vehicles, including tanks, armoured cars and trucks, were reported destroyed, along with guns, mortars and stocks of food, fuel and ammunition. The communique noted that the attack came "as King Hassan of Morocco persists in his rejection of peace and his intransigence, two days from the date fixed by the 19th OAU summit for the application of the peace plan decided at Addis Ababa."

(On December 21 the Polisario announced the start of a Moroccan offensive "of unprecedented extent" in the same area of the El Ayun-Smara-Boucraa triangle, involving 25,000 troops supported by tanks and aircraft).

OAU Confident Chadian Conference Will Take Place

AB302030 Paris AFP in English 1905 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Addis Ababa, Dec 30 (AFP) — The Organization of African Unity (OAU) is confident that the roundtable conference it has proposed for opposing Chadian factions here from January 9 will go off without a hitch, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde said here today.

Emerging from talks here with Chadian Foreign Minister Idris Miskine, Mr Goshu, whose head of state, Mengistu Haile Mariam, is current OAU chairman, said preparations for the meeting were going ahead "at the highest levels." The talks were attended by OAU interim Secretary-General Peter Onu.

"I am optimistic that the forthcoming meeting would get the conflicting parties together to end the 20-year war that has ravaged the former French colony," Mr Goshu said.

The OAU has invited all the eleven so-called politico-military factions that took part in the Lagos conference on Chad in 1979. All those invited have agreed to participate, Mr Goshu said.

The OAU expects the eleven delegations to meet by themselves to thrash out their difficulties, without observers or other interested parties present.

Asked about rumors here that the meeting might take place outside Addis Ababa in some secluded spot for maximum quiet and security, the foreign minister said the meeting would not go outside the capital.

It was not clear yet how the OAU would reconcile the position of ousted former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, one of the faction leaders invited, who has been insisting that even the Habre government in power in Ndjamena must come to Addis Ababa on equal terms with the other delegations. The OAU now recognizes the Habre regime as legitimately representing Chad.

OAU Condemns S. African Invasion of Angola

EA300628 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The Organization of African Unity, OAU, today expressed (?horror) at the (?tragic) silence of the international community while the terroristic South African regime is on the rampage in Angola. Referring to Pretoria's latest massive invasion of Angola, the OAU vehemently condemned in a press release the wanton killings of innocent people, including women and children, and the horrendous destruction of property by South African marauders on the unacceptable ground that the invasion is aimed at SWAPO freedom fighters. The OAU said that the condemnation of the South African action is not enough [words indistinct] the international community should help Angola to strengthen her security and assist SWAPO in the armed struggle until Namibia is free.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Tunisian Events With Mzali

LD041051 Tripoli JANA in English 0941 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi al Awal 30, Jan 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — There has been a telephone conversation between the leader of the revolution and Mohamed Mzali, the Tunisian prime minister. A similar telephone conversation took place between 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the people's committee for foreign liaision bureau, and Beji Caid es-Sebsi, the Tunisian foreign minister.

The contacts were about the current events in Tunisia, and it has been agreed to coordinate and cooperate between the two countries in these unfortunate circumstances.

JANA learned that a Libyan delegation will arrive in Tunisia tomorrow according to what has been agreed during these contacts.

Army Chief Jabir Receives Two PFLP Officials

LD040802 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA) — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, has received the Brothers Taysir Qubba'ah and Salah Salah, members of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Reportage on Jallud's Official Visit to Bulgaria

For Sofia BTA and press accounts of the visit to Bulgaria by Libya's Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, including the text of the joint communique issued at the conclusion of the visit, see the Bulgaria section of the 3 January Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

SUDAN

Information Minister on Visit to Egypt

JN031830 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jan (SUNA) — Muhammad Khojali Salihin, minister of national guidance and information, returned here today after attending the opening ceremony of the Nile Valley Radio in Cairo.

Following his arrival, Salihin said that during his visit to Cairo he discussed with his Egyptian counterpart, Safwat ash-Sharif, means of promoting information cooperation between Sudan and Egypt in the fields of radio, television, photography shows, an integration magazine, informational training, and the exchange of visits from media personnel.

Salihin added that an agreement was reached, within the framework of information integration between the two countries, on exchanging daily radio dispatches and weekly television dispatches between the two countries through satellites. He noted that during his visit to Cairo he met with President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, who both praised the establishment of the Nile Valley Radio and the distinguished role that it must play in serving the integration objectives.

Concluding his statement to SUNA following his arrival from Cairo today, Salihin said that the opening ceremony of the Nile Valley Radio included paying tribute to the first generation of workers in the Sudan Corner Radio, which played a major historical role in serving the common objectives of the Nile Valley peoples.

It is worth noting that the Nile Valley Radio was officially opened and began operations on 1 January 1984.

TUNISIA

Violence Continues Over Rise in Bread Prices

State of Emergency Declared

LD031821 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1756 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Here is an important communique: President Habib Bourguiba this afternoon signed a decree proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the territory of the republic. He also signed a second decree banning demonstrations and imposing a curfew.

The decree says: I, President Habib Bourguiba, president of the republic, after taking cognizance of Articles 37, 41, and 53 of the Constitution, and Law No 4 of 1969, dated 24 January 1969, concerning public meetings, corteges, parades, demonstrations and gatherings, have issued the following decree:

Article 1: In accordance with Article 12 of the abovementioned law No 4 of 1969, dated 24 January 1969, and until notice is issued to the contrary, a ban is imposed on any gathering of more than three people on public streets and in public squares.

Article 2: A ban is also imposed on the movement of persons and vehicles from 1800 to 0500 until notice is issued to the contrary.

Furthermore, in accordance with Article 20 of the abovementioned Law No 4 of 1969, dated 24 January 1969, and particularly Paragraph No 2, arms may be used by security personnel against any suspect who refuses an order to halt and who tries to escape, where there is no way of obliging him to stop.

Article 3: Any person contravening the provisions of this decree is liable to the penalties cited in Article No 5 of the abovementioned law No 4 of 1969, dated 24 January 1969.

More on Unrest

LD031936 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Yesterday, people were speaking about bread riots in Tunisia with respect to the incidents that occurred in the south of the country. These serious incidents, provoked by the rise in the cost of living, resulted in the deaths of four people. But today we learn that this toll is very much heavier. The rioting in the south has spread to Tunis and Safaqis where, according to a very unofficial figure, it is reported to have led to more than 20 deaths.

Tanks are patrolling the capital of Tunis. President Bourguiba has just decreed a curfew and a state of emergency for the entirecountry, which means the suppression of all freedoms and all movements and meetings, including trade union meetings. The government is accusing irresponsible elements of having sparked the agitation in certain districts of the capital where the police have opened fire. In short, the movement that is spreading in Tunisia is much more political and much more lethal than was thought at the beginning. Here is correspondent Ulysse Gosset:

One has to speak this evening of flare-ups over all of Tunisia, because after the south and center of the country — where rioting has been spreading over the past 5 days — the capital in its turn was the scene this morning of violent clashes between the forces of order and the demonstrators, primarily young people from the university or high schools of Tunis. Bourguiba Avenue, the main thoroughfare of the town, was even blocked, and the capital's campus was surrounded by police.

Unrest is now reigning in the country's nerve center but it is also still affecting Tunisia's second city, Safaqis, 250 km south of Tunis. There the demonstrators are armed, a representative of the French Consulate has stated.

Finally, coach and train links with the south of Tunisia are still cut.

Situation in Tunis Reported

LD032206 Paris Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Correspondent Ulysse Gosset dispatch]

[Text] I have just this minute arrived in the Tunisian capital and I was struck when leaving the airport terminal by the bitter smell and smoke of the tear gas that is blurring the airport, which is about 15 minutes from the center of Tunis.

When I arrived in the city complete calm prevailed, but on Bourguiba Avenue, close to Bourguiba's statue, there were two tanks and an armored vehicle — two tanks which were being guarded by patrols of soldiers in groups of three. In front of the Ministry of the Interior, on the same avenue, there was another tank, but I repeat to you that calm prevailed in the center of Tunis only a few minutes ago.

I learned that the demonstrations affected the entire city, and particularly the area where the university campus is situated. The students held quite violent demonstrations there and tanks have surrounded the campus, while the police have sealed off the area. Thus, everyone is observing the curfew here in the Tunisian capital.

It is known that the police have already used tear gas grenades; it has even been said that the police fired shots. At the moment, I do not know the number of injured and the casualties, but people here have not hidden from me the fact that there have no doubt been (?some) deaths as a result of these demonstrations today. I would just like to remind you that the provisional toll of the rioting today, and of the last few days in Tunisia, is 20 dead.

Government Appeals to Citizens

LD031434 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Interior Ministry has issued the following communique:

Given the disturbances in some areas of the capital by irresponsible elements, and in order to protect citizens and public property and assets, it has been decided that the forces of order should be stationed in sensitive areas.

Citizens are urged to help these forces accomplish their duty by remaining calm and preventing their children from going out in the streets.

Primary, Secondary Schools Closed

LD031829 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Communique issued by Ministry of National Education]

[Text] The Ministry of National Education announces that it has been decided that as of tomorrow, Wednesday, 4 January, all secondary and primary schools will be closed throughout the republic until Saturday, 7 January, inclusive.

Colleges Closed

LD031826 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Communique of Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research]

[Text] The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research announces that it has been decided that all institutions and colleges throughout the republic will be closed as of tomorrow, Wednesday, 4 January, until Saturday, 7 January, inclusive.

Mzali Comments on Moves To End 'Sabotage'

LD040005 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali has condemned the acts of sabotage, looting, and burning, attacks on offices and sanctities [ar hurumat], and attempts to create a state of panic and chaos by a group of vagabonds and those harboring hatred for the regime. A number of misled youths followed them.

Following investigations, it appears that these acts were aimed at toppling the regime that has achieved freedom and independence for the Tunisian people, has built a strong state for them, and which is determined to stand sternly and strongly in the face of this destructive wave and against those who are hostile to freedom, democracy, and stability.

He pointed out that the great struggler has signed two decrees, on the state of emergency and on the curfew. These extraordinary measures were taken to confront the sabotage and [word indistinct] acts, to return stability, and in order to protect offices and sanctities from acts of looting and burning carried out by malicious vagabonds.

He stressed that the state is continuing its security, economic and social tasks, and is still helping needy groups.

Envoy to France Comments on Disturbances

LD032219 Paris International Service in French 2115 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The troubles in Tunisia broke out following a steep rise in the prices of bread and wheat-based products, but it is quite certain that this is not the sole reason. Political opponents may have taken advantage of the situation. Above all, one is made to think of an attempt at destabilization fomented by Libya. You may remember the Qafsah events in January 1981, when the town was taken over for almost 20 hours by a commando group of Tunisians, armed and trained in Libya. Although he refuses to name names, the Tunisian ambassador to Paris does not rule out foreign intervention. Here is Hedi Mabrouk interviewed by Yves Mourousi on the first French TV channel:

[Begin recording] [Mabrouk] A demonstration was probably organized in the beginning in good faith by people who rejected this rise in prices, but then uncontrolled elements intervened to give it quite a different direction.

[Mourousi] In your view, according to what you know and what you are saying, and in view of the preparations for a multiparty system announced by Mr Mzali, who are those who want to destabilize Tunisia today?

[Mabrouk] I could answer that but I believe it would be prudent not to go in the same direction and say that this comes from outside, or there is such and such a group within the country. An inquiry is being carried out, very seriously, in depth.

[Mourousi] Apparently this has involved the young, rather than...

[Mabrouk, interrupting] Yes, above all, the young. It was mostly schoolchildren who demonstrated. There is a decidedly unfavorable reaction to the rise in prices. This is a fact. Despite explanations and the information campaign carried out, the broad majority was not sufficiently convinced. But I do not believe that, in this matter, after the information campaign and considering the social measures taken by the Tunisian Government to favor a certain social advance, one should attribute this only to the rise in prices.

WESTERN SAHARA

Saharan Official Comments on Moroccan Stance

LD032330 Paris International Service in French 2115 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Several times in the past few days the Polisario has asserted that it has launched heavy offensives against the Moroccan forces stationed in the [word indistinct] triangle of the southern Sahara. It is very difficult to form an understanding of the facts. In any case, on the Moroccan side there is neither denial nor confirmation that the fighting is continuing.

Salem Ould Salek, external relations representative for the Polisario, believes that France could play an important part as mediator in the south Saharan conflict. Salem Ould Salek is interviewed by Carmen Bader:

[Begin recording] [Salem Ould Salek] First, we expect all the countries that support Morocco by military means to stop this support. The intransigence of the king of Morocco, his rejection of peace, and the military escalation today are explained by the support received by King Hassan II, who wants to distract Moroccan public opinion from problems in Morocco — very serious problems in economic and social areas and the crisis Morocco is experiencing as a consequence of the war. Morocco's stance in refusing peace is due to the support, both economic and military, received by Morocco.

France could play a very important role in that it is a member of the Security Council, and France has repeatedly declared at the highest level that it supports the OAU action. The OAU action is very clear today in that it has unanimously decided on a peace plan and we consider that all the countries of the world and France in particular can play a very important role in bringing the King of Morocco back to reason and accept the OAU peace plan.

[Bader] That is, a role of mediator, possibly?

[Salim Ould Salek] That is to say a role in support of the OAU action and a role in bringing this mad king of Morocco to accept the peace plan. [end recording]

CHAD

Goukouni Forces, Terrorists Seen Threatening Iriba

PM041116 Paris LE MONDE in French 3 Jan 84 p 30

[Unattributed report: "Mr Hissein Habre Is Expecting an Attack From His Enemies in the Eastern Part of the Country"]

[Text] Mr Charles Hernu, who had previously spent New Year's Eve in the company of a French detachment in Biltine and Arada in eastern Chad, was received by President Hissein Habre in Ndjamena on 1 January. After that 2-hour meeting the French defense minister described Franco-Chadian relations as "excellent." He also stated that the French contingent deployed in Chad is "in great spirits." Mr Hernu returned to France on Monday morning, 2 January.

When he received the diplomatic corps for the New Year celebrations on Saturday, Mr Hissein Habre stated for his part that his enemies are planning to launch "major resources" into an attack on Iriba, a location defended by some 160 government forces near Biltine and 130 km from the Sudanese border. An informed military source confirms that a column of Mr Goukouni Oueddei's supporters equipped with Toyota vehicles armed with Stalin organs is at present marching on Iriba. An attack by Goukouni's forces on that Chadian garrison, which the French consider to be on the "red line," is apparently not impossible on the eve of the "round-table meeting" of Chadians to be held at the beginning of next week in Addis Ababa, seat of the OAU.

The same sources also report that the French troops in Chad have taken security precautions identical to those adopted by the French contingent in Beirut following information that "Iranian terrorists" coming from Cameroonian territory have crossed the Chari and entered Chad in the area in which the French garrisons are located. A list of these "terrorists" has apparently even been drawn up.

Finally, with regard to the Addis Ababa meeting, President Hissein Habre expressed in a New Year's message his "ardent desire" and his "constantly reaffirmed wish" to see it produce "favorable results." However, referring to this "round-table meeting" between the Chadian Government and the various opposition leaders, the head of state nonetheless added: "Let there be no mistake; there is no question of us falling into the odious system of factions again."

Ndjamena Rebuts Ethiopian Statement on 'Factions'

AB021712 Paris AFP in French 1601 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 2 Jan (AFP) — The Ndjamena government "regrets" the recent declaration by Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde that the 11 Chadian factions will participate in the meeting on national reconciliation scheduled to begin on 9 January in Addis Ababa.

In a communique issued in Ndjamena on Monday, the Chadian authorities recall that it is going to be "in no way a meeting of factions," but rather a meeting between the legitimate Chadian Government and the various dignitaries of the opposition.

According to the communique, the authorities in Ndjamena denounce "the last-minute maneuvers inspired by the enemies of the Chadian people aimed at preventing the success of the Addis Ababa meeting, which Chadians have been calling for wholeheartedly."

In conclusion, the communique says, "The supreme interests of Chad commands that we should be reasonable but also extremely vigilant against all maneuvers."

Goshu Wolde stated last Friday following a meeting in Addis Ababa with the Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine and OAU Acting Secretary General Peter Onu that the 11 Chadian factions invited by the OAU to attend the 9 January meeting had agreed to attend.

GAMBIA

1981 Coup Leader's Witchdoctor Sentenced to Death

AB011850 Paris AFP in English 1326 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Banjul, Jan 1 (AFP) — Another person has been sentenced to death in connection with the abortive coup d'etat of July 1981 in the West African state of Gambia.

The death sentence has already been passed on 32 people alleged to have taken part in the leftwing putsch. Three have had the ruling rejected on appeal and two have died in prison.

At the latest hearing, by a special court here yesterday, the death sentence was passed on Mamady Seydi, who was regarded as the witchdoctor of putsch leader Kukoi Samba Sanyang. He is alleged to have predicted the most favorable date for a coup as well as taking part in it himself.

The court also passed 10 prison sentences ranging from eight to 10 years and cleared another 27 defendants.

GHANA

J.J. Rawlings Delivers National Address

AB311750 Accra Domestic Service in English 0552 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Address to the nation by Provisional National Defense Council Chairman Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings in Accra on the second anniversary of his coming to power — live]

[Text] Countrymen and women, [words indistinct] I call for nothing less than a revolution. [Words indistinct] the more difficult task will come later and the other tasks [words indistinct] of creating new social and economic justice after years and years of injustices, and therefore letting power go back to where it really belongs [words indistinct] and with the people. We would not have set in motion a revolutionary process without a tremendous faith in the people of this country and in their capacity to create better social and economic prospects. What happened on 31 December 1981 was merely a ploy setting in motion a process which provided us with the chances to transform this nation. A revolution is (?made up of) the exposure and (?clearing away) of all the nonproductive ways that we inherited and putting in their place new ways, new attitudes, and new structures. Each of us has in him elements of the old ways in various degrees. Each of us participated in the unproductive attitude and to change from them is not easy, even when we know the harm we are doing to ourselves and our society. And that is the fundamental reason for the most difficult task that has confronted us over the last 2 years, namely, correcting the decline in our economy and creating a new framework for progress.

The relentless deterioration of the country must not only be the responsibility of political leaders. Each of us has been part of the neglect through our consumption habits, indiscipline, and even (?crimes). The whole fabric of our society was being eaten into without participation even if through silence. [as heard] The cancer had reached a very advanced stage by 31 December 1981. [Passage indistinct] When our budget deficit rose from less than 2 billion cedis for the 1979/80 financial year to almost 5 billion cedis in 1980/81, when in the first quarter alone of the 1981/82 financial year the projected deficit for the whole year was almost being reached, it was quite clear we were on the course of self-destruction. Not to apply the brake and put it back on course would have been very foolish.

We have these figures that sound so general that we do not see our individual contributions in our different areas of work. So let me bring it down to a few more specific examples about the performance of some institutions which we set up to generate resources for this country to enable it to develop. I will take the three divisions of GIHOC [Ghana Industrial Holding Corporation] and examine their records. These are our worst institutions. First of all, the Bricks and Tiles Division, a division set up in the hope that it will provide building materials: In every year since it began operations, this division has made a loss; and starting from a modest loss of 15,000 cedis in 1968, the loss rose to 141,870 cedis in 1973. By 1976, it had risen to 209,000 cedis. By 1978, it had risen to half a million cedis and by 1980 to a million cedis and has since remained around that figure. For 15 years a division makes losses which are increasing every year. Nothing gets done to reverse the tide through every year since 1969. And the division's accounts have been audited and presented to the GIHOC, whose staff are paid precisely to ensure better performance in each division. GIHOC in turn presents reports to the State Enterprises. The Ministry of Industries also has responsibilities for ensuring better performance, especially by our public enterprises.

Now let's take a look at the Marble Works Division, which started off in 1968 with a modest loss of 18,000 cedis, which climbed to 42,000 cedis by 1971, and to 110,000 cedis by 1977, and finally to 800,000 cedis by 1980, and worse after. The vegetable oil mills went from a modest 110,700 cedis loss in 1968 to 222,000 cedis by 1971, and further to 350,000 cedis by 1976, and by 1981 the loss was 1.3 million cedis. And as I said, there are worse institutions. These losses occur inspite of the procedures for accountability that exist in the system. Auditor general's reports lead to no remedy. The management remains in place and workers continue to receive wages, and business goes on as usual as if nothing was going wrong. But the business that was going wrong was that of destroying our nation, reducing us to the lowest level of poverty. It has been like pouring money into a hole without a bottom, and the nation is paying a heavy price for it, a price made heavier on each of us because we are having some adjustment pains as well as bearing the consequences of the past.

We have had to bring the vehicle to a halt, change gear, and face the right direction instead of continuing to go backwards as we were doing, and I can assure you that it will not be easy. I said in early 1982 that the economy of this country would have to be put on a war footing. Most of us did not appreciate the extent of the economic damage that existed. Instead of spending our time and energy on planning and mobilizing productivity, a great deal of valuable time was spent on resolving confrontations between worker and manager, man and officer, soldier and civilian, and so on, and so on. Some of this was pointless, a mere game of power

which led to the undermining of authority and caused a very serious decline in productivity. And what was the consequence of all this? The economy was suffering because the decline in the economy did not wait while disputes were being settled. No, it did not! In this situation, we had no alternative but to take measures such as those contained in the budget of April this year. Necessary realistic measures of financial discipline and, more recently, on the recommendation of the Prices and Incomes Board, new prices have had to be imposed on maize, rice, as well as sugar. Very painful! I know that coming out with these prices was very agonizing for those who did and they only did so because they thought it necessary. Nonetheless, the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has decided in the light of our knowledge of the consequences of these prices that provisions should be made in the 1984 budget for a tax rebate that will increase the effective wage of the worker without jeopardizing the overall aims of the recovery program. A review of policy on pricing will also ensure that prices of basic food items remain within the reach of the ordinary man and woman. We cannot get the productivity we all expect if people cannot afford basic food.

But let me assure you that the consequences of this wage and price review will soon be announced by the secretary for finance and economic planning, and they are [short break in transmission] even more of a burden than the increases themselves. Firstly, if we [short break in transmission] of such prices, then it is our responsibility to provide him with other amenities of life which we in the cities have been denying him whilst eating his produce. We cannot concentrate resources on urban areas and leave the rural areas so badly neglected.

Secondly, other measures will have to be taken to raise the necessary revenue for the improvement of the productive farmers in the rural areas. Thirdly, the responsibility on each of us to become productive and eliminate waste in the system becomes even greater. If our objectives are to be achieved, it is important that all agencies and institutions of state exercise the utmost thrift in their spending. This year for instance, some institutions consumed their budgetary allocation for the whole year within 6 months and came back with empty bowls asking for more. And where is this more to come from? Most of us would like to know some of the institutions involved and these will be made known. Then you will begin to understand the role you also play in preventing the decline of the economy.

I have touched very briefly on some of the events of the past 2 years. Not all of us have been aware of how complex and frustrating some of our experiences in protecting this revolution has been. But we can say with pride that we have all weathered a very difficult period together. We have made mistakes, but we have learned from them in a spirit of self-criticism. I have often pointed out mistakes and corrected errors not because I do not recognize the positive achievements which have been made, but because there can be no room for complacency when there is so much more still to be done. But the real test is in what has happened to our attitudes. And I think something is really happening. Even where we have not summoned up the courage to change the way we live and our relations to our fellow men and women, there is no doubt an uneasiness, a questioning, a sense of shame which indicate that a process of genuine change is indeed taking place.

It is a slow business but its very slowness is a testimony to its genuiness. Its very slowness is a reflection of the human capabilities on the ground. We have all, however, to start to increase the tempo of our progress. We cannot wait any longer for learners. Those who from the beginning were already committed to the cause of the oppressed may have met so many frustrations and disappointments and yet we have all come to this anniversary even more committed and more convinced that our aims are right and more right than before and this indeed, is a genuine victory for all of us.

We must all ask ourselves: What have we made of the opportunity in the past 2 years to transform our society? When we talk about power to the people, what have we to show for it? Some of us have seized it and used it to carry out remarkable achievements. Some of us have used it half-heartedly without the understanding which is necessary for real confidence and commitment. Others have tried to twist it and misuse it to their own advantage, to satisfy their desire for power or for material things unwarranted. And others have simply looked on.

The excesses committed by some in the name of the revolution brought about the alienation of some sections of the society who also had something very valuable to offer. Again, the process was interrupted by disturbances in the universities, in part caused by an information gap, and in part caused by paid activists who were orchestrating the scene for the mad attempt on 19 June 1983, some of whom, no doubt, had their passports and air tickets ready for possible failure.

There have been the harsh conditions of nature, too, which worsened the shortages together with our having to absorb the effect of the return of our fellow nationals from Nigeria. And as if those problems were not enough, bushfires also swept through the country, destroying farms and villages. Despite intensive efforts at cultivating large and small farms, poor rainfall also led to a very poor harvest as well as to the lowering of the water level in the Volta Dam. Yet, the noble people of this country have continued to develop a new understanding of the hard realities of our situation and to struggle toward the goal of social justice.

There have been gaps in perception which have led to some of the problems which we have faced over the past 2 years. The person who has come to understand how he has been exploited and oppressed but is not yet convinced of his own capacity of working with others in order to transform society has only one means of expression. He may be suspicious of others. He will turn a destructive hatred on those whom he blames for his plight, instead of taking positive steps to improve his own condition. He will destroy structures and institutions without putting something better in their place, and this is what happened with some PDC's [People's Defense Committees] and WDC's [Workers Defense Committees] and with some uniformed personnel who found an outlet for their frustrations in harassing others. Those people in society who have been able to grow in awareness to expand their perception have a duty to help others whose consciousness has become fixed at some stage. This conscientization [as heard] will enable the problems of oppression to be overcome by united action in the revolutionary process.

A revolution is a process, passing from one stage to another on the way to its goal. Our goal is social justice — a system of government which will enable everyone to contribute and participate; a liberating experience for all of us. The step which took place 2 years ago does not produce instant social justice. It was a beginning and we can only reach our goal by following a systematic process; a series of steps involving a thorough appreciation of the problem and its causes; the planning of strategy; an appreciation of the strategy of planning; ensuring that the people understand the program, its implementation, its monitoring; and, where necessary, the making of corrections. Each and every stage calls for different strategies to lead on to the next, although all stages are united by the basic underlying principles of honest and responsible service to the citizens.

Anyone seeing the changes in poor urban areas such as Nima — where attempts have been made to deal with the problems of sanitation — anyone seeing the farms, roads, the dams, clinics, and other projects initiated in many villages through the new spirit of self-help must, no doubt, give a great deal of credit to the PDC's. Along the western border for instance, in the northern region, we have been able to bring the commercial smuggling of shea nuts to a halt through the efforts of the PDC's. The PDC's and WDC's are part of a structure which allows participation in the making of decisions that affect every one of us. Our people are learning how to use this structure. Mistakes have been made, but increasingly they are being corrected. Corrupt PDC executives are being removed by the people and new ones elected. Power to the people means power to those who are responsible enough to use it for the common good.

Our aim is the achievement of true national democratic institutions which derive their power from the people and which are manifestations of the people's power. Our current efforts for the realization of this aim must be based on consultation, respect, and tolerance. We see this as providing the most effective political framework for implementing the present program of economic rehabilitation and social reconstruction, which we regard as legitimate goals of our revolution.

The PNDC has been receiving various views expressed by well-meaning people on the political structures and arrangements so as to enhance the capacity to command the honest response from the majority of our people. Some serious thinking has been going on and we shall shortly crystalize these deliberations in steps that will advance our democratic aspirations. Some regard democracy as the process of choosing between a restricted group of people by means of the ballot box. The process of this kind of democracy ends when the voter puts his piece of paper inside the box. The winners are then free to manage or mismanage the nation's wealth and we are all witnesses to the callous mismanagement which has resulted from this type of democracy. At present, when consultations and debates go on at grassroot levels and every individual has a greater opportunity than ever before to participate in the formulation of policies, the participants must be aware of all the issues involved: that is, asking people to take decisions when they do not know all the factors which should be weighed is to invite superficial and dangerous decisions. This is not to say that some people are unfit or not intelligent enough to contribute to decisionmaking. So many of us have been deprived of the opportunity of knowing the scientific truth of what goes on around us. Ignorance is not stupidity; it is lack of access to knowledge and understanding and it is the imposition of miseducation. However, clinging to ignorance when there is the opportunity to gain understanding is another matter. And therefore, let those who have ears to hear, let them hear. Those who have eyes but cannot see, can choose to remain blind.

Those who hold high office in government must have higher standards than expected in other circumstances. And I demand absolute integrity of every PNDC appointee. I expect a standard of responsibility, of service to the people, a humility and self-criticism, and of decisiveness and firmness which cannot be brought into question. Those who cannot measure up to these standards will be removed because it is upon the maintenance of these standards that the credibility of the revolution rests. Those of us who have pledged our lives for the liberation from oppression of the people of Ghana will not tolerate anything but the best and also on behalf of those who have died for this process. And if we demand higher standards of integrity, performance, and effectiveness from appointees to high office, then we must also expect every government official, high or low, every worker, every person involved in management or production of goods and services, to strive towards these standards. I do not expect you to wait for government directives because government is wherever you are. We share the power of state together.

When I last spoke to you, I talked of weeding out not only corruption and malpractice from every organization, but also attacking inefficiency, apathy, and indifference. Heads of establishments have to deal with all matters of discipline firmly and decisively and WDC executives must provide the example in punctuality, honesty, and dedication and not become new demigods terrorizing colleagues. An action-oriented revolution must not produce its own new breed of idlers and exploiters.

Our call for greater production and efficiency has a real urgency when we consider the record of our own past performance. There is no doubt that the development of an efficient productive orientation is called for in our public enterprises. This will inevitably mean redeploying labor because the dignity of labor does not lie in remaining idle in a plant or office which is overstaffed. In working our plan for dealing with underutilized labor, we have to cope with the need to provide alternative avenues for people to exercise their talents. We will expect the fullest cooperation from the Trades Union Congress as well as from the International Labor Organization, whose experiences and resources in the retraining of labor we expect to tap considerably in this exercise.

It is not only from labor and public enterprises that we must expect the appreciation of the need for new productive orientations. From private employees as well as from management too, there have been past practices which are simply incompatible with the creation of the right social atmosphere for increased production.

Self-reliance in our industrial production is going to be a necessary part of our demands for increased output. Lack of import license has been too cheap an excuse in situations where no attempt is made to obtain available local substitutes. We must, however, give full credit to those who have responded to the call

for production. For example, the Highways Authority has shown in the crash program now going on to rehabilitate the Kumasi-Konongo-Nkawkaw road that it can perform efficiently under proper supervision. The sad thing is that while some people are working so hard and producing results, in that very same Ghana Highways Authority there are many who do not deserve the pay they get at the end of the month. We continue to see so much wastage of machinery and of labor in an organization which has shown that if we were working properly, we would hardly need to pay private contractors as well in order to build our own roads. Wastage is, in fact, one of our deep-rooted national diseases and we will always end up paying dearly for it, very dearly.

The current planned power cuts should make us all conscious of how much we have wasted electricity in the past by simply taking it for granted and not conserving it and therefore doing further damage. There are still so many people who will not take this situation seriously. There are areas where transformer stations have been damaged, cutting off power for days and costing the nation large amounts of foreign exchange for replacement of equipment simply because some people refuse to heed the advice of the Electricity Corporation to switch off all electrical appliances during power cuts. I would also like to remind you to conserve pipe-borne water, which has cost so much to purify but which is often seen running to waste from broken taps and pipes. Remember that in most of the townships where the real producers live, there is no clean, convenient water at all and yet the very parasitic cities allow it to run into gutters. People pass by and comment on the waste, but how many take the time or trouble to report what they see and how many of them make the effort to check that their report is followed up with action? Meanwhile households and industries further down the line end up being deprived of water. Is it also not very strange that the towns and cities with their access to clean water have dirtier surroundings than most rural villages where water must be carried from river and dams? Again, it is the collective result of many unthinking individuals in our society. The refuse, which is carelessly thrown by one person is not much, but when thousands do it, the whole town becomes filthy and the individual thinks that his action makes no difference. It is only when each separate individual realizes the significance of his action that we will see a real change in our surroundings. Some months ago for instance, a whole series of water pipes were broken along the road to Legon by earthmoving equipment working on the roadside. The first pipe to be broken could be excused as an accident, although the chance of such an accident will be minimized if the officer in charge of the operation checked on the location of authorized water connections. But if the first pipe which was broken was an accident, what were all the others? In other words, to continue driving the earthmoving equipment breaking pipe after pipe was either clear and downright stupidity or sabotage. Too many so-called accidents are at best criminal negligence and at worst downright treason, depriving others of their basic needs and hindering the nation's progress. If appeals to common sense and patriotism have no effect, we will have to deal with such actions by other means.

I could, of course, be telling you very soothing and pleasant stories and attempt to make promises of easy times ahead. There is only one thing which prevents me from doing so, and that is the truth. Even if you do not find what I say comforting, I hope you appreciate its scientific validity. The truth is that only hard work, integrity, and humble commitment to our just struggle will bring those easy times which we all long for.

It is in the rural areas that the most basic solutions to national survival will be found. Despite the neglect which they have suffered, the rural people have retained their dignity, their capacity for hard work, and their deep cultural values. Their noble backs have borne the burden for those of us in these urban parasitic areas. They do not own any of the thousands of cars and trucks we see about though it was their sweat and blood that paid for them. They hardly benefit from the crushing bills that pay for the fuel, nor do they get the imported rice which they also paid for. Very little of the soap and sugar reaches them, and very little of the kerosene. They have very few schools for their children and hardly any teachers for their schools.

Countrymen, when our universities reopen sometime in the new year, we hope they will address themselves to these problems. The steps recently taken by the government have provided the machinery to reshape the universities to become part of a productive society. For the universities are only the tip of the educational pyramid and a disproportionately expensive one at that. The cost of one university student for 1 year will pay for approximately 90 primary school children; and the cost of educating one primary school child is almost entirely made up of salaries of teachers and employees of the Ministry of Education. [as heard] This disparity is clearly unjust since it greatly reduces the chances of pupils from public schools to obtain even entry into secondary schools. The greatest sufferers are the rural areas, where schools have virtually no equipment and only the most exceptional pupils have the chance of progressing further. As many as one in three children never even start school. We have been too preoccupied with the higher reaches of education and in the coming year we must address ourselves to the problem of the base of the educational pyramid. The newly constituted educational commission is expected to tackle these issues as early as possible.

Countrymen, my recent visit to neighboring countries should reassure us of the tremendous amount of goodwill there is for the Ghanaian revolution. In Upper Volta, in Benin, in Mali, in Ivory Coast, we were received with great warmth and affection by the people as well as the leaders. We will continue to foster closer cooperation with neighboring countries and we will contribute toward the strengthening of economic and political relations in this subregion and within the OAU. Our commitment to the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations remains firm. The prospects in today's world are such that unless developing countries like ours pool our resources, the chances of progress will be even slimmer. We recognize the right of every sovereign nation to choose its system of government and its political philosophy, but we shall not let differences stand in the way of cooperation. At the same time, we will not be influenced by any other nation to deviate from our progressive course. Ghana's revolution is not a carbon copy of any other revolution.

It is aimed at resolving our own socioeconomic problems, using our own experiences and cultural background as its basis. I would also like to take this opportunity to express Ghana's appreciation for the support and assistance given by many countries over the past fiscal year.

The first 8 months of 1984 until the main harvest begins in August are going to be difficult for us. Fellow countrymen, I would like to repeat this. The first 8 months of 1984 — that is, until the main harvest begins in August — are going to be very difficult for us. This is the result of the poor harvests of 1983. The poor harvests have left us without stocks sufficient to carry us over the lean season. We are compelled to ask again for the help of friendly nations to make good the anticipated shortfall because even though we brought far more land under cultivation during the past year, the hardworking farmers and people in the cities saw many of their crops wither in the drought.

Countrymen and women, noble countrymen and women, as we enter the new year, let us rededicate ourselves to the ideals of the revolution and to the just struggle for a better future. Countrymen and women, victory is certain and I can assure you that we shall overcome. I wish you all a very constructive and fruitful new year. Thank you and good morning.

Rawlings Receives Message From Sassou-Nguesso

AB301655 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] A three-member Congolese delegation today presented a special message from President Sassou-Nguesso to the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, at the Castle, Osu.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, the leader of the delegation, Mr (Wilson Abel Nadissabeka), who is also the special envoy of President Nguesso, said the two countries shared common bonds of relations and this short visit will further strengthen the cordial relations between Ghana and Congo. The visit comes barely 3 weeks after a similar one to the country by Congolese minister of works, Mr Combo Matsiona. The delegation, which is on a tour to Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and the Upper Volta, has since left.

PNDC Releases Selected Prisoners, AFRC Convicts

AB030810 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council has decided to release (?first) offenders including Armed Forces Revolutionary Council [AFRC] convicts who had served half or more of their sentences, except those convicted of murder, arson, rape, armed robbery, and smuggling. The government has also decided to release the following AFRC convicts for steady industry and good conduct as prisoners. They are: Major General K. Osei Boateng; Naval Captain Kyeremeh; Group Captain K.A. Jackson; Colonel K.A. Tachie; Mr Saibou Arthur; and Mr Kweku Appiah. All those released have been bonded to be of good behavior.

NIGERIA

Reportage on 3 January SMC Council Meeting

Members Sworn In; Council Enlarged

AB031412 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Members of the Supreme Military Council [SMC] have been sworn in in Lagos. They took their oaths of allegiance to the Federal Military Government as members of the highest ruling body of the nation before the head of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Major-General Muhammadu Buhari.

A Radio Nigeria State House correspondent reports that shortly before the swearing-in, an announcement was made enlarging the council by three members.

Members To Declare Assets

AB031846 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] All members of the Supreme Military Council [SMC] and National Council of State, the Federal Executive Council, and all public officers are to declare their assets. The SMC decided at its meeting in Lagos today that the order should be complied with within 6 weeks.

Buhari Addresses Meeting

AB031529 Lagos NAN in English 1512 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 3 (NAN) — Sixteen members of the Supreme Military Council (SMC) were today in Lagos sworn in by the head of state, Maj-Gen Muhammadu Buhari, at Dodan Barracks.

The members of the council include Brig. Tunde Idiagbon, chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Maj-Gen Domkat T.Y. Bali, minister of defence, Maj.-Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, chief of Army Staff, Commodore Augustu A. Aikhomu, chief of Naval Staff, Air Vice Marshal Ibrahim Alfa, chief of Air Staff, Mr. Chike Ofodile, attorney-general and minister of justice, and Maj.-Gen. Mamman Vatsa.

Others are, Brig. Sani Abacha, Brig. Muhammadu Gado Nasko, Brig. Yahanna Yarima Kure, Brig. Mohammed Magoro, Navy Capt. Oko Ebitu Ukiwe, Brig. Olayemi Oni, Air Commodore Laurence D. Koinyam, Ambassador Mohammed Daura Rafindadi, director-general Nigerian Security Organisation (NSO) and Mr. James Etim Okon Inyang, the inspector-general of police.

Two other members, Col. S. Ibrahim and Brig. Paul Omu were absent during the ceremony.

In a speech after the ceremony, Maj.-Gen. Buhari said that the revival of the nation's economy was the number one priority of his administration. "All resources at our disposal will be put into achieving this objective," he said, adding that he was not interested in the classical economist's indices of economic growth and gross domestic product. "My own measure of our economic development will be based on such indicators as the availability of the essentials of life such as drinking water, electricity, food and such other basic commodities in our local markets at prices within the reach of the lowest income earner in the country," he said. [Passage indistinct]

"We will also fight smuggling, fraud, and corruption in all its ramifications and uphold the principle of public accountability," he said.

The head of state said that he was aware of the common resolve to rescue the country from the abyss into which it had been plunged by the misrule of the last four years and assured Nigerians that his government would render a selfless service to them.

The functions of Supreme Military Council include the determination of national policy on major issues affecting the country, and constitutional and national matters. Others are, the appointment of members of the National Council of State and the Federal Executive Council and the general supervision of the work of the two councils.

Explains Reasons for Takeover

AB031540 Lagos NAN in English 1536 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 3 (NAN) — The head of state, Maj-Gen Muhammadu Buhari, said in Lagos today that the Armed Forces decided to intervene "in the best interest of the hungry and suffering masses of our people."

Speaking after swearing-in members of the Supreme Military Council, Maj-Gen Buhari said that the operation was also to rehabilitate the nation and make it once again the pride of all Nigerians.

He said that the last four years of civilian administration was characterised by "harrowing and intolerable economic conditions and runaway inflation arising from gross mismanagement of the nation's resources by an inept, purposeless and insensitive leadership."

The head of state said that the conduct of the last general elections completely eroded the confidence of most Nigerians in the electoral process as a means of effecting a change of the political leadership in the country. He said that it was regrettable that, with the return of the same class of leaders, the hope of Nigerians that the leaders would turn a new leaf became an illusion.

Maj-Gen Buhari said that Nigeria, in its 23 years of existence as an independent nation, witnessed the highest rate of inflation, unemployment, mass retrenchment, the folding up of factories and an almost total collapse of the economic system while a few "nouveaux riches" wallowed in affluence. He said that the image of Nigeria at home and abroad was tarnished by "stenching corruption, smuggling and armed robbery," adding that the ousted administration did not show any capacity to deal with the situation.

Comments on Coup Casualty

AB031540 Lagos NAN in English 1513 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Kaduna, Jan 3 (NAN) — The private residence of the late Brig. Ibrahim Bako, at 16A Kinkino Close, Gra. Kaduna, was today filled with mourners as prayers were offered for the repose of his soul.

Brig. Bako was killed on Saturday at Abuja where he had led a battalion of crack troops to arrest the former president, Alhaji Shehu Shagari. A NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent who visited the late Brig. Bako's house today said that some sympathisers shed tears openly.

The head of state, Maj.-Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, said in Lagos today that Brig. Bako was the only casualty in the operations that overthrew the administration of Alhaji Shehu Shagari. Maj.-Gen. Buhari made this known during the swearing-in of the members of the Supreme Military Council. The Council observed a two-minute silence in memory of the late Brig. Bako.

The head of state said that a newspaper report yesterday on the death of Brig. Bako was not a fair report. He appealed to members of the news media for co-operation, adding, "we cannot stop you from reporting facts but you will show a sign of maturity and avoid over sensationalism."

New Government Structures Approved

AB031824 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Supreme Military Council [SMC] has approved a new structure of federal ministries. They are: agriculture and water resources, commerce and industries, petroleum and energy, finance, communications, transport and aviation, works and housing, defense, internal affairs, justice, education, science and technology, information, social development, youth and culture, health, employment, labor and productivity, national planning, mines and power and steel development, external affairs, federal capital territory.

At the state levels, there will be only nine ministries. They are as follows: local government, agriculture, education, finance and economic planning, commerce and industry, works and transport, justice, health and information. In respect to local government, the SMC decided that their number will be limited to only those specified in the first schedule of the suspended 1979 Constitution. All military governors have been advised to that position.

New Governors, Others Appointed

AB031825 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Supreme Military Council [SMC] today appointed military governors for the states of the Federation. They are: Commander A.A. (Magreke) for Anambra; Brigadier M.S. Sanni for Bauchi; Brigadier J.P (Usseni), Bendel; Brigadier J.A. Akera, Benue; Major General A. Waziri, Borno; Navy Captain E.A. Archibong, Cross River; and Major General M.D. Jega for Gongola.

Others are Mr B. (Mekima), who is an acting commissioner of police, for Rivers; Brigadier R.O.S. Nwachukwu, Imo; Navy Captain S.B. (Atukum), Plateau; Air Commodore H. Abdulahi, Kano; Group Captain B. Latinwon, Kwara; Brigadier G. Duba, Sokoto; Lieutenant Colonel D. Mark, Niger; Lieutenant Colonel O. Popoola, Oyo; Colonel O.O. Diya, Ogun; Commodore M.B. (Otiko), Ondo, and Group Captain Mudashiru, Lagos.

The appointments were approved at the first meeting of the SMC held at Dodan Barracks. The meeting also approved the membership of the National Council of State. It is composed of the head of the Federal Military Government [FMG] and commander in chief of the Armed Forces as chairman; the chief of staff supreme headquarters; minister of defense, service chiefs, and inspector general of police.

Other members are the attorney general and minister of justice, and all military governors. All the appointments take immediate effect.

Also today, the head of the FMG and commander in chief of the Armed Forces appointed new general officers commanding: 1st Mechanized Division, Brigadier J. Olaoni; 2d Mechanized Infantry Division, Brigadier Sani Abacha; 3d Armored Division, Colonel (Abiru Idriss); 82d Division, Brigadier Y.Y Kure; commander Corps of Artillery, Brigadier N.G. Nasco.

Swearing-In 4 Jan

AB032020 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2018 GMT 3 Jan 84

["Special announcement"]

[Text] The swearing-in ceremony of the new military governors will take place in Dodan Barracks tomorrow, Wednesday, 4 January 1984. All the new governors are expected to arrive at the Supreme Headquarters, Dodan Barrracks, at noon.

Shehu Shagari Reportedly Brought to Lagos

AB031520 Lagos NAN in English 1516 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Ikeja, Jan 3 (NAN) — The former president, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, was brought to Lagos today in a military aircraft, reliable sources at the airport told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN). An eyewitness said that the former president arrived at the local terminal of the Ikeja airport at about 9 a.m. from Kaduna, where he had been since his arrest at Abuja, the federal capital, after the military coup. The eyewitness said that the former president was brought to Lagos handcuffed, with a military guard. "He was dressed in his usual flowing agbada and cap looking pensive, sober and sad" added the source.

Former President Shagari was later driven away with military escort.

Airport sources said that more governors, deputy governors and top politicians in the former administration were still being expected in Lagos. Meanwhile, the personal effects of the former president were still being brought to the Presidential Lounge of the airport for transportation to his home state.

Curfew Lifted; Air Traffic Resumes; Borders Closed

AB031605 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Jan 84

["Special announcement"]

[Text] The Federal Military Government has lifted the dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed on the nation on Saturday, the 31st of December, 1983, with immediate effect. The government has also ordered an immediate resumption of domestic and international flights. Meanwhile, all other border points remain closed until further notice.

Unlicensed Firearms, Ammunition To Be Turned In

AB031849 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] All holders of unlicensed firearms and ammunition have been given 2 weeks starting from today to submit such weapons at police stations nearest to them. A release from the [police] force headquarters in Lagos warned that after the deadline, those who fail to do so will be liable on conviction to 10 years imprisonment with hard labor and no option of fine. However, those who comply within the stipulated time are assured that they will not be prosecuted.

Government Warns Hoarders, Profiteers

AB031722 Lagos NAN in English 1544 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 3 (NAN) — The Federal Military Government [FMG] today in Lagos warned hoarders of essential commodities and profiteers to desist from such acts forthwith.

In a statement, the government advised businessmen to ensure that goods were sold at reasonable prices. The government, however, stated that businessmen who continued to indulge in hoarding essential commodities and creating artificial scarcity with the intention of raising prices would not be tolerated.

It also noted with appreciation the response of the general public in encouraging the fall in prices of goods in the markets all over the Federation.

Conflicting Reports on Debt Repayment

'More Than $2 Billion' Repaid

AB031559 Paris AFP in English 1542 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] London, Jan 3 (AFP) — Nigeria's new military regime today gained a measure of international financial credibility by meeting a scheduled repayment of more than two billion dollars in foreign debts and scotching a rumored withdrawal from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Barclays Bank International announced here that the Nigerian junta of Major General Muhammadu Buhari, who overthrew the government of former President Shehu Shagari on New Year's eve, repaid more than two billion dollars owed to 70 foreign banks by the Shagari regime.

"Barclays Bank International as agent of the two refinancing agreements signed July 13 and September 19, 1983 between commercial banks and Nigeria have confirmed that payments due on January 3 under the terms of the loans have been received," a Barclays statement said.

The Buhari regime also announced its intention to remain within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), declining to unilaterally lower its oil price and touch off an international price war.

Lagos' foreign debt was estimated at more than four billion dollars, not counting the two billion dollars in letters of credit which has been rescheduled previously.

The Shagari government had been negotiating with the International Monetary Fund for the past several months, and the coup came two days after the announcement of an austerity budget.

Shortly after the announcements from the Barclays Bank and the Buhari regime, the share prices of Shell Oil and Imperial Chemical Industries, which have major investments in Nigeria, rose on the London stock market.

Nigeria had been Britain's third largest trading partner after the United States and the Common Market before turning into a "nightmare" because of its towering foreign debts and draconian import restrictions, which had paralyzed foreign trade.

(Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon said in Caracas earlier that an oil price war between Nigeria and other petroleum exporting nations would be "disastrous for the Nigerian economy" although "in the current circumstances that could appear to be advantageous.")

The Shagari government had been undergoing a financial crisis caused largely by the falling price of oil, the country's chief export, inflation and widespread corruption.

Lagos was reckoned the most expensive city in the world and was continually breaking its own price records. In December, the weekly *FINANCIAL PUNCH* reported price rises of 13 percent for rice, 11 percent for beans, 20 percent for milk, 15 percent for detergents, 18 percent for soap, and 31 percent for insecticides in just two weeks.

London banking circles said that the new junta in Lagos should be in a better position to come to a rapid agreement with the IMF because it was free of the political constraints that shackled the Shagari government.

The British Government has made further loans to the financially strapped nation conditional on the implementation of an austerity plan.

General Buhari has acquired substantial international experience by receiving his military training in Britain and serving as Nigeria's oil minister and head of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation during the previous military government that ended in 1979.

Roughly $50 Million Repaid

AB031731 Paris AFP in French 1704 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] London, 3 Jan (AFP) — It has been learned from banking circles that Tuesday's partial debt payment by Nigeria to its banking creditors through Barclays Bank amounts to a little over $50 million as scheduled, and not $2 billion, as previously stated.

The $2 billion figure mentioned earlier is, in fact, the total amount of Nigeria's debts which have been rescheduled following agreements in July and September of 1983. It is expected to be written off within 3 years beginning 3 January at the rate of about $50 million per month.

Lagos Reports Repayment

AB040915 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Nigeria has to pay slightly more than 30 million naira to foreign banks on a debt of over 1.6 billion naira incurred by the ousted civilian government. Initial reports say the whole loan had been repaid. The full debt to 70 foreign banks was rescheduled in July and September last year with amortizement due within 3 years from yesterday.

It was the first scheduled monthly repayment of just over 30 million naira due yesterday that has been received by Barclays Bank International as the agent of the commercial banks involved, sources said.

Reportage on Conditions in Federation's States

'Widescale Looting' in Bendel

AB031035 Lagos NAN in English 1025 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Benin, Jan. 3 (NAN) — The new market in Benin city was on Sunday completely razed down in a blaze which started at about 5.30 p.m. and lasted for seven hours. Though the value of items lost was still being estimated, the chief fire officer in

Bendel, Chief Humphrey Longe, said "it is bound to be colossal." Items lost in the blaze include foodstuffs, clothing materials, enamelwares, cosmetics, jewelries, and electronic goods.

A NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA [NAN] correspondent reports that it took the combined team of the Bendel fire service and fire fighting services of the Nigerian Airports Authority and the Army over seven hours to put the blaze under control. The NAN correspondent who visited the scene yesterday, reported that the market which occupied estimated land area of 300 metres was reduced to debris of ashes, bricks, and iron rods.

One of the traders, Mr. Alex Edozie, a dealer in cosmetics, shoes, and children's wears said he lost goods estimated at 10,000 naira and another N11,000 in cash. Another trader, Mrs. Elizabeth Edomwonyi, said she lost jewels valued at N2,000 and N500 cash. However, a lucky trader, Mr. Emmanuel Nzekwe, dealer in rice and beans said he succeeded in retrieving about 210 bags of his goods with the aid of some co-tenants he mobilised on hearing about the fire.

The Bendel chief fire officer confirmed "widescale looting" and attributed the extensive damage to late information on the incident coupled with inadequate fire-fighting equipment.

Police sources told NAN that investigation was continuing on the cause of the fire.

Ex-Political Office Holders Warned

AB031720 Lagos NAN in English 1330 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Benin, Jan 3 (NAN) — The commander of the 4 Mechanised Brigade, Nigerian Army, Brigadier James Onoja has warned ex-political office holders in Benin to desist from peddling inciting rumor that could cause disaffection for the military government.

Addressing a press conference at the Government House today in Benin, Brigadier Onoja noted that the change of government was popular "hence it was not necessary to bother people with maximum display of force." The brigade commander advised the people to obey the curfew order, adding that anybody caught flouting the order would be severely dealt with. He reiterated his earlier call on the "wanted-politicians" to make themselves available to the nearest police station in their constituencies.

Brigadier Onoja [passage indistinct] of service before 3.00 P.M. on Thursday.

Markets in Benue's Capital Close

AB031027 Lagos NAN in English 1020 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Makurdi, Jan. 3 (NAN) — Shop owners and foodstuff sellers at the Makurdi main market yesterday closed down their shops against customers yesterday because civilians invaded the market to either force down prices or loot shops. NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent in Makurdi reported that some traders carried their wares on their head and ran in different directions in confusion to avoid selling at low prices.

The large size of detergent now sold at 2 naira instead of the inflated price of 7 naira while toilet soap now sold at between 15 kobo and 25 kobo instead of 60 kobo. All the big supermarkets in Makurdi metropolis had closed down for fear of being forced to sell at low prices.

The commander of the 31st Airbone Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Makurdi, Brig. Sunday Adenihun, told NAN that soldiers had been warned not to harrass anybody and not to engage in forcing down prices on their own. He declined to comment on the whereabouts of ex-governor of Benue, Mr. Aper Aku, and his former deputy, Alhaji Slue Iyaji.

Cross River Politicians Report

AB031510 Lagos NAN in English 1351 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Calabar, Jan 3 (NAN) — Over one hundred holders of political office in Cross River with effect from October, 1979 have voluntarily reported at the headquarters, 13 Airportable Brigade, Nigerian Army, Calabar.

The brigade commander, Brigadier Peter Adomokai had earlier ordered all political office holders in the state as from October 1979 to report at the brigade headquarters Bejre noon on [words indistinct] the brigade headquarters told of NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Calabar that those who had reported included former state governors, Dr Clement Isong, and Chief Donald Dick Etiebet. Others were former Senator Victor Akan, Senator Joseph Aqua Ansa, the state chairman of the NPN [National Party of Nigeria], Chief Emmanuel Etim James, former commissioners and special advisers in Both Dr Isong's and Etiebet's administration, and former members of the state and national assemblies.

The sources said that those who [words indistinct] being kept under protective custody at the assembly village, the former residence of the state assemblymen. At the assembly village, NPN reported that relatives of detainees were seen hanging around the gates of the village. Armed anti-riot policemen questioned said that they were instructed by the Army authorities not to allow any visitor see the detainees. The detainees according to sources at both the assembly village, and the brigade headquarters were being fed by the Army.

All efforts to reach the brigade commander, Brigadier Peter Adomokai for comments failed.

Envoy in UK Expresses 'Surprise' at Coup

NC311145 Paris AFP in English 1124 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] London, Dec 31 (AFP) — Nigerian Ambassador in London Alhaji Shehu Awah expressed surprise at today's reports of a military coup in Lagos.

Mr Awah told AFP neither he nor the embassy had any views of what was happening in the Nigerian capital. He had tried unsuccessfully to phone Nigeria but the lines were cut. The ambassador said he had not expected a coup, which he called "sad for political stability". "We have to wait and see what comes out of it," he added.

NLC: Regime Should Avoid 'Sycophantic Praises'

AB031135 Lagos NAN in English 1105 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan. 3 (NAN) — The Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) has called on the Federal Military Government to eschew "sychophantic praises and approaches from destroyers under the mask of courtesy and social acceptance." In a statement today in Lagos, the congress said that having studied the maiden speech of the head of state, Maj-Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, it concluded that there existed a correspondence of views and concern over the problems of the country which led to the military intervention. It accused the former civilian regimes and their parties for not heeding the congress' opinions, views, appeals, and warnings. The congress called on the Nigerian workers to be vigilant and patriotic.

The statement was signed by Mr. John Dubre and Dr. Lasisi Osunde, acting president and acting general secretary respectively.

Shagari Reportedly 'Warned' of Impending Coup

AB032231 Paris AFP in French 1900 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Niamey, 3 Jan (AFP) — According to very reliable sources in Niamey, Nigerian President Shehu Shagari, toppled Friday night in a military putsch, was reportedly warned several days before the coup that "something" was brewing against his regime.

The warning, said to have been made by Colonel Aliyu, the former chief of military security who had just been sacked by the president. The same sources state that this accounts for Shagari's visit — flanked by his personal bodyguards — to Abuja, Nigeria's new federal capital.

It was learned from very reliable sources that President Shagari's arrest was eventful as a result. In fact, the captain of the presidential guard is said to have killed Captain [as received] Bako, the leader of the "rebels" who came to arrest the president. It was reportedly only late on 1 January that the loyalists surrendered and Shagari was arrested.

The latter was first detained in Kaduna, in the center of the country, before being "handcuffed" and brought back to Lagos on Monday evening.

The same sources specify that economic issues seem to have triggered the coup. As a matter of fact, the military leaders are alleged to have warned the president about the Army's reaction should its demands concerning the budget be ignored. The budget was to be voted on by the National Assembly.

Most notably, the Army demanded the payment of salary arrears, the reduction of investment projects deemed impossible to implement, and finacial austerity. Lastly, it demanded that the negotiations with the IMF and those on the rescheduling of Nigeria's debts be conducted "by technocrats and not by politicians."

On this point, the essential role played in the coup by newly promoted young generals seems to prove true, the same sources add.

Gowon's Presence in Togo Unrelated to Coup

AB031015 Paris AFP in English 1003 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Lome, Jan 3 (AFP) — Former Nigerian leader Yakubu Gowon's presence in Togo has nothing to do with Saturday's military coup in Lagos, informed sources said here today. The former general, who was ousted from power in 1975, had been planning to visit Togo for several weeks, according to the sources. He arrived here with his family last Saturday, two days before the coup that overthrew the civilian government of Shehu Shagari.

Mr. Gowon, who went into exile in Britain after he was overthrown, was given permission by Mr. Shagari to return to Nigeria for a visit last month. He was expected to stay until mid-January.

The same sources said Mr. Gowon and Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema were old friends and recalled that Mr. Gowon had spent several weeks in Togo after being thrown out of office and before going to London.

TOGO

French Defense Minister Arrives in Lome 29 Dec

AB300912 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpt] French Defense Minister Charles Hernu is on an official visit to Togo. Shortly after his arrival in Lome yesterday afternoon, he held a 45-minute discussion with President Eyadema at the latter's private residence in Lome II. This was followed by an exchange of gifts.

In the evening, the French minister of defense attended a dinner offered by President Eyadema, minister of defense and chief of staff of the Togolese Army. The dinner, which took place at the Joint Services Regiment, was attended by many officers and noncommissioned officers of the Togolese Armed Forces and members of the French military technical assistance team.

Before this dinner, President Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally, president of the republic, and supreme head of the institutions, presided over an awards ceremony.

UPPER VOLTA

Reportage on Trial of 'Former Dignitaries'

Official Discusses Trial Procedures

AB301740 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Our correspondents, Sakre Seydou Ouedraogo of the broadcasting service and Abel Nadjie of the television service, spoke this morning with Lieutenant Pierre Ouedraogo, national secretary general of the Revolutionary Defense Committees [CDR]. They asked him about the means which the people's tribunals judging former dignitaries will have available to conduct their investigations. Here is Pierre Ouedraogo's reply:

[Begin recording] [Ouedraogo] The people's tribunals will work on the basis of the charges already leveled against the former officials, and also on the basis of the evidence which will be provided by the CDR's. There will be two courts — one in Ouagadougou, and another in Bobodioulasso. The names of those who are to be tried will be drawn by lot before each sitting in order to avoid any sort of pretrial manipulation. To carry out their investigations, the CDR's designated by the people's tribunals will have the entire state machinery at their disposal. Everything will be made easy for them in order to facilitate their gathering of the needed evidence. In this way the people will be satisfied that justice has been rendered to those former officials who, as you know, used their posts to illegally enrich themselves and used their ill-gotten gains to keep the people in the dark, to corrupt the various traditional chiefs, and to exploit every opportunity in order to play their politics.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, you just mentioned the evidence that the CDR militants and the Upper Voltan people must give before the tribunals to substantiate the charges against these former officials. There is a possibility that false allegations and fabricated evidence might be produced. What precautions have you taken at the CDR General Secretariat level to avoid such cases?

[Ouedraogo] I must tell you that since the revolution was launched, the General Secretariat has constantly received accusations and allegations. However, as you know, no one has ever been falsely condemned. Why? Because we have always taken the precaution of verifying each piece of evidence before making any move. I believe that this experience will help us considereably with the people's tribunals in distinguishing the true from the false, and thus passing fair judgement.

[Reporter] Comrade, how can you explain the fact that the accused will not be allowed to have lawyers?

[Ouedraogo] When you speak of lawyers, it makes me think of the past, when only those who could embezzle many hundreds of millions of francs were protected. That is, in order not to be found guilty, you had to ensure that you had the means to hire one, two, or even three lawyers to defend you. Popular verdicts have no need for these stiflers of justice [word indistinct]. My client is innocent, the lawyers say. In actual fact, we could say he is guilty, but we are pleading for a client, and so on.

We are saying that these former officials do not need lawyers, and the people, I believe, are the best judges of honest men. If they have not embezzled any funds, I do not see why they would be found guilty. [end recording]

More on TPR Proceedings

AB030840 Paris AFP in French 1033 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, 1 Jan (AFP) — A public awareness and mobilization campaign has been launched in Upper Volta by the government and Revolutionary Defense Committees prior to the opening of the trial of politicians from the Third Republic (1978-1980) and the Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress, CMRPN, (1980-1982). These proceedings, which are to take place before the People's Revolutionary Tribunals, TPR, are scheduled to begin on 3 January. Among those to be tried are former Presidents Sangoule Lamizana and Saye Zerbo, as well as several of their ministers and close aides.

On Friday, Information Minister Adama Toure appealed to "all Upper Voltans to help" the TPR's [People's Revolutionary Tribunals] and to "clarify the management of the people's sacred property" by the accused, whom he charged with "auctioning off the hands of the working masses to their plantation masters on the coast under French colonialism and neocolonialism."

Mr Toure said he was happy that "for the first time in the history of Upper Volta, the people will be able to hold their own trials outside the hypocritical and bourgeois courts of justice and its inextricable system of deceitful proceedings and willful mystification."

On Friday, the CDR assured the government and the National Council of the Revolution, CNR, of their determination to sensitize the masses on the role of the People's Tribunals. They also urged the government to resume the dismissal of civil servants, "so that the rotten ones who escaped the first sitting process might be dismissed."

Some 319 civil servants accused of corruption have already been dismissed since 4 August 1983.

New French Envoy Presents Credentials

AB292235 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The foreigner coming to our country must acquaint himself with our socioeconomic realities. This is how the chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state explained the change of places for the presentation of credentials. He made this observation yesterday to His Excellency Jacques Leblanc, the new French ambassador, who presented his credentials.

To is the fourth town, after Po, Bombore, and Lai, to host such a ceremony. During yesterday's ceremony in To, the head of state took advantage of the opportunity to point out that the time of servile imitation — incompatible with our traditions — is over, and that we must first count on our own energies before looking

to assistance from abroad within the framework of cooperation between Upper Volta and other countries.

The new French ambassador pledged his country's determination to work toward a form of cooperation based on respect for the identity of other countries. Ambassador Jacques Leblanc said it was a privilege for him to be called upon to represent his country in Upper Volta at a time when this country is turning over a new page in its history — that of the struggle for development.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos May Accept 30-Day Truce With RSA

MB031935 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, admitted on 30 December 1983 the probable establishment of a 30-day period of truce with South Africa as of 31 January this year in the wish to contribute toward a rapid, peaceful, and lasting solution of the Namibian problem. In a letter addressed to Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, the Angolan president set as conditions the need to get the agreement of SWAPO, the withdrawal by the South African Government of its military units from Angolan territory, and the solemn promise on the part of South Africa to initiate the implementation of UN Resolution 435 on Namibia in the following 15 days without conditions alien to its contents.

Recalling the active role played by Angola in the search for peace and stability for southern Africa, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos reiterated that there is no involvement of Angolan armed forces on Namibian territory and regretted that his policy of peace, which has been reiterated on a number of occasions, is confronted with systematic acts of military aggression by the South African Government.

In his letter the Angolan president called attention to the real intensification of military escalation, rather than a disengagement as announced by the Pretoria authorities on 15 December 1983. He also stressed that the UN Secretary General has been empowered to hold consultations between the belligerent parties, namely SWAPO and South Africa, with a view to attaining a definitive cease-fire in Namibia.

On the same day Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos sent a letter to his counterparts of Mozambique, Nigeria, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, France, the FRG, Great Britain, Canada, Ethiopia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement, asking them to take the necessary steps with a view to assuring respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola to avoid aggravation of the military situation, the consequences of which could be unforeseeable.

Dos Santos Greets Castro on Cuban Anniversary

MB031340 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Message from Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, to Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba on the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution — date not given]

[Text] On behalf of the Angolan people, the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, as well as on my own behalf, I am pleased to express through you our warm and fraternal congratulations to the Cuban people, the Communist Party Central Committee, and the Government of the Republic of Cuba on the occasion of 25th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution. Since that historic date, the Cuban people have achieved many victories in all fields of national life, and their profound spirit of solidarity and internationalism has attracted great esteem and admiration in the world. Thanks to the enormous sacrifices that it has endured while taking the necessary risks, the Republic of Cuba, wisely led by its experienced party and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, has always been on the front line of the struggle for freedom, peace, and social progress for the oppressed and exploited peoples.

The Angolan people and the MPLA-Labor Party have always counted on the militant solidarity of the fraternal people of Cuba and their Communist Party, ever since the inception of their long struggle against Portuguese colonialism and imperialism. On this date of great significance in the history of the Cuban people, the Angolan people and MPLA-Labor Party share in their happiness and festivity, convinced that the links of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation that unite the two peoples will increasingly be strengthened for the sake of progress, peace, and social well-being.

May you, esteemed Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, accept our best wishes of health and prosperity and of new successes and prosperity for your people.

Highest and fraternal consideration.

[Signed] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola.

Defense Ministry: RSA Using Chemical Weapons

MB032017 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Communique by the Ministry of Defense issued on 3 January 1984]

[Text] The aggression of the racist South African Army continues against our territory, and it is achieving increasingly greater proportions. In the town of Cuvelai our troops have been fighting the enemy, which at this moment has introduced forces up to a brigade supported by artillery and air forces. In view of the resistance of our troops, the racist invaders have launched bombs with toxic products against our troops and the civilian population, thus shamelessly violating the international agreements which prohibit the use of chemical weapons.

Meanwhile the racist South African troops have been bombarding the town of Caiundo in the Cuando Cubango Province with air forces and artillery.

With this serious escalation of aggression by the racist South African troops, which use chemical weapons against our troops and civilian population, the Ministry of Defense alerts international public opinion to the unforseeable consequences that this can have for peace and security in the region.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

Office of the minister of defense in Luanda on 3 January 1984, year of defense and production.

[Signed] Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister of defense.

BOTSWANA

National Assembly, House of Chiefs To Meet

MB040809 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The 1984 budget session of the National Assembly will start on February 13th with a budget speech by the vice president and minister of finance and development planning, Mr Peter Mmusi. The assistant clerk of the National Assembly, Mr (Mukande), said that so far no questions or motions have been received for the session. He said the session will take approximately 6 weeks.

The assistant clerk also explained that the next House of Chiefs sitting will be on Monday 23d, and it is expected to last for 2 weeks. Already one motion to be presented to the house has been received from a specially elected member, Mr (Francis Pedi). The motion will require the minister of agriculture to provide all agricultural demonstrators with tractors, in order to enable them to help small farmers (?during) the first rains.

According to Mr (Makande), the House of Chiefs will, among other things, discuss the Tribal Lands Amendment Bill No 2 of 1983, and the Tribal Territories Bill, also of 1983.

COMOROS

President Abdallah Announces Cabinet Changes

EA030946 Moroni International Service in French 1700 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The president of the republic yesterday reshuffled his cabinet. Mr (Sedasen Sedastin), formerly governor of Njazidja island, now becomes minister of state in the office of the president in charge of relations between the government and the Federal Assembly. Mr Salim Ben Ali, who is leaving the ministry, has been appointed governor of Njazidja island.

Mr Mohamed Moumine, who was holding the portfolio of the Ministry of Justice in charge of the Civil Service, Labor and Social Law, goes to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, replacing Mr Moustakim Abdou, who now takes over the Ministry of Justice in Charge of the Civil Service, Labor and Social Law. The ministers of agricultural production and national education will also exchange portfolios. Thus, Mr Ahmed Ali Mohamed becomes minister of agricultural production, industries, and crafts; and Mr Mohamed Chaher Ben Said Massounde becomes minister of national education, culture, youth, and sports.

Four ministers and two secretaries of state have kept their posts. They are: Mr Said Kafe, minister of foreign affairs, cooperation, and foreign trade; Mr Omar Tamou, minister of interior; Mr Said Mohamed Said Turqui, minister of equipment, environment, and town planning; the economy and finance minister, Mr Ali Nassor; Me Antoy Abdou, secretary of state for transport and tourism; and the secretary of state for posts and telecommunications, Mr Abdullah Mbae. The secretary of state for economy and finances, Mr Yahaya Djamadar, leaves the government to take up an ambassadorial post. The government continues to be led by Mr Ali Mroudjae.

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Additional Appointments

AB012025 Paris AFP in English 1824 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Moroni, Jan 1 (AFP) — The head of state of the Comoros Islands, Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, today reshuffled his cabinet but kept Prime Minister Ali Mroudjae at the head of the government.

Yahaya Djamadar Wadi was appointed roving ambassador, and Ibrahim Abdallah Ibrahim was appointed special and plenipoteniary ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Former minister for relations with the governorates Aslim Ben Ali was named governor of Ngazida island.

In his New Year's message, President Abdallah also announced the release of some political detainees and the rehiring of officials laid off for disciplinary reasons.

The Comoran president also met the diplomatic representatives to the island nation at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel and told French Ambassador Alain Deschamps that he hoped the coming year would bring "understanding, prosperity and evolution between France and the Comoros."

Salim Urges France To Return Mayotte to Comoros

AB301003 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Moroni, Dec 30 (AFP) — Tanzania's foreign minister, Salim Ahmed Salim, has appealed to the French Government to return the Comoran island of Mayotte to the Moroni Government as soon as possible.

Mr Salim was speaking at the end of a four-day stay on the Indian Ocean islands, during which he met his Comoran counterpart, Said Kafe, and the islands' president, Ahmed Abdallah.

Mayotte has been administered separately by France since the Comoros' unilateral declaration of independence in 1975. But the Comoran state still claims the island as part of its territory and officially represents it at the United Nations.

During the visit, which ended yesterday, Mr Salim and Mr Kafe agreed to establish even closer links between their countries, notably in the fields of telecommunications, transport, sea pollution control, and air-sea rescue services. They also decided to work towards signing a trade agreement soon.

LESOTHO

Police Search Opposition Leader Mofeli's Home

MB301609 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 30 Dec 83 p 5

[By Mike Pitso]

[Excerpt] Maseru — The home of the leader of the opposition United Democratic Party, Mr Charles Mofeli, was raided by heavily armed members of the Lesotho Security Police in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Speaking after the incident, Mr Mofeli said that only nine hours after the prime minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, had announced that he intended holding general elections soon, a platoon of twenty heavily-armed security police had raided his house and party office at Motimposo on the outskirts of Maseru.

The raid was the first police have made on a leader of the opposition party in Lesotho in more than ten years.

Mr Mofeli said his house had been searched for 3 and 1/4 hours and alleged the following items had been taken away:

— An SABC TV interview tape containing the separate interview of him and that of the Lesotho minister of foreign affairs, Mr Evaristis Sekhonyana, when they were interviewed by the SABC radio and television commentator Mr Cliff Saunders;

— A party memorandum on the appeal for financial support for the election campaigning;

— A letter from a former National Party member of Parliament, Mr N Desetsa, who had asked for his party's policy documents.

He disclosed that the search was immediately stopped when the memorandum on appeal for funds was found.

Mr Mofeli said he regarded the search as nothing but an attempt by Chief Jonathan to humiliate him in order to scare away political support from his party. He thought another reason was to confiscate the party's confidential files so that Chief Jonathan would be well informed of his party's strategy and source of funds.

He said he expected more arbitrary actions against him, but affirmed he could not be intimidated and would continue to strive for peaceful change in Lesotho.

MOZAMBIQUE

50 Reportedly Massacred by MNR Rebels 25 Dec

LD031423 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1300 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Western diplomatic sources in Zimbabwe say that Mozambican rebels massacred 50 passengers in a bus on Christmas Day. According to these sources, only six people who took refuge in a neighboring church managed to escape the massacre. Th rebels, said to belong to the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR), have reportedly shot dead, one by one, the passengers of the bus which was travelling to the Mozambican town of Murrupula, in Nampula province.

So far, there has been no official confirmation of this incident by the Maputo authorities.

MNR Spokesman Blames Government

MB040743 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Mozambique Resistance Movement, Renamo, has denied reports that Renamo forces ambushed a bus in Mozambique on Christmas Day and killed 60 passengers. The spokesman, Mr (Jorge Correia), said in Lisbon that the ambush was carried out by government troops who had disguised themselves as rebels in order to discredit the movement. He said that he had obtained this information from the Renamo chief, Mr Afonso Dhlakama, at his headquarters in the interior of Mozambique.

Mr (Correia) said that Renamo was at present engaged in its biggest offensive against the government of President Machel. He claimed that the movement had captured the important towns of (Moncari) and (Fampusi) in Manica Province on December 27th and 28th. He said that 28 government troops were killed, and large quantities of arms were captured.

Military Operations in Gorongoza Detailed

MB301100 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1830 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Report on large-scale military operations in Gorongoza]

[Excerpt] The Gorongoza mountains, which are 1,863 meters tall and stretch 60 km from north to south, are today regarded as the center of armed bandit activities in our country. From there, in the heart of the country and at the intersection of the Sofala, Manica, Tete, and Zambezia Provinces, the South African racists are determined to cause (?death), suffering, famine and misery for our people. It is also in the Gorongoza region that our soldiers are now involved in fierce fighting to safeguard the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of our country, and the security and well-being of all of us.

Our correspondent, (Marcelino Odze), has recently been only a few kilometers from the war zone and has sent the following report:

[Begin recording] The Mozambique Armed Forces are involved in intensive operations against the armed bandits in the Gorongoza region of Sofala Province. These operations, which began in early September of this year, are regarded as large-scale operations. [end recording] [Unidentified voice heard ordering mortar fire to begin, followed by loud blast]

[Begin Odze recording] Gorongoza is regarded as a key zone for the Boers who train, supply, and launch the armed bandits from there to different strategic zones of our country. In fact, Gorongoza is the center of support for the actions carried out by the bandits both on the Beira-Manica axis and the Beira-Tete link. Important roads, railway lines and power lines [words indistinct] in addition to the Zimbabwe pipeline are situated in this area. It is from there that the armed bandits organize themselves to operate in the provinces of Manica, Tete, Zambezia, and Inhambane, where they spread terror among the people and sabotage our economy. In view of its geography, agriculture, and fauna, Gorongoza is also suitable for the continued survival of the armed bandits. They leave their main camps to establish dozens of small posts, some of which are used for transit purposes and others for local operations.

In September of this year our armed forces launched a series of operations and the enemy began abandoning the small camps to gather together at one point to repel our attack. However, following the first clashes the bandits changed their minds, leaving dozens of dead and wounded and a considerable quantity of weapons on the battlefield. Now they move from one area to another in small groups in an effort to save their lives. This new conduct by the bandits is putting them in danger, because it has forced them to abandon the people whom they have terrorized. Obviously, the South African racists are having more difficulties in supplying the small roving groups with arms, ammunition, uniforms, and food.

After the independence of Zimbabwe, the armed banditry surfaced in our country in the very Gorongoza area which was also a part of the war against Ian Smith. It is the same bandits who serve the same boss, although the manner in which they operate is slightly different. [end recording]

MNR President Trumpets Resistance's Achievements

MB031000 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National Resistance in Portuguese 1700 GMT 2 Jan 84

[New Year's message by Afonso Dhlakama, president of the Mozambique National Resistance; date and place not given — live or recorded]

[Text] The new year 1984 is now beginning. It is a new year in the life of our country, our people, and our movement. When we begin a new year, it is important that we think about what is in store for us and what we propose to carry out as a basic objective for the next 12 months.

It is also important that we analyze what has been achieved during the year that has just ended. In retrospect, 1983 was a year full of victories for us in the military and political fields.

By the end of 1982, we were operating in the northern part of the country and the scope of our operations had reached as far as Zambezia Province. In the south we had reached the Limpopo River, and Frelimo continued to show its inability to contain the relentless advance of our heroic combatants. By the end of 1983, the glorious forces of the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR] had already solidly established their bases in Nampula Province. In Niassa Province we were once again launching the popular armed struggle, and in the south our advance permitted us to reach to within 40 km of the capital, Maputo.

The lying Machel regime has said many things in its propaganda. They lied that at the beginning of the year they had eliminated the MNR in Maputo and Gaza Provinces. They lied that the guerrilla war had been stopped in the Limpopo Valley. All these were lies, pure and simple. Today we have already crossed the Incomati River and the progress southward continues. They have reportedly claimed to have destroyed the MNR bases and taken prisoners. However, Machel is unable to present anything to journalists. He was absolutely unable to present anything. The Maputo regime's ill-disciplined soldiers were only able — and very rarely at that — to capture empty camps which had been abandoned earlier. The prisoners whom Machel claimed to have captured were just innocent members of the public who had been detained by the regime's army or police.

There is only one truth. Our movement and the Mozambican people are advancing relentlessly and invincibly, and the Frelimo troops understand this quite well. The hundreds and thousands of casualties which they sustained this year are proof of this. Their defeats increased in 1983 in a such a manner that they forced Machel to do everything possible to save his regime. In despair he also tried to sell out Mozambique to those whom he was constantly attacking and insulting just a short while ago.

One campaign mounted by Frelimo against our peoples was the so-called "Operation Production." It brought misery upon and destroyed many Mozambique homes. This criminal operation is now being actively resisted by our forces. Hundreds of thousands of people taken at gunpoint by Frelimo and incarcerated in village communes have already been freed by our combatants. Release operations will continue until the last village commune — the last concentration camp and slave labor camp — ceases to exist.

During 1983 we also witnessed the barbaric actions committed by the Frelimo army. Water poisoning, abductions, rapes, the burning and looting of residences and harvests, mayhem, murders, bombardments of villages, and massacres are various crimes which are regularly being committed by the ill-disciplined soldiers against the defenseless and innocent populations.

As part of its military plan, the enemy tried a campaign which he claimed would result in the disappearance of the MNR before December 1983. This campaign was codenamed "Shack" [Cabana]. December arrived and once again Machel had failed. How could Frelimo halt the advance of all the people?

We countered Machel's communist violence with our revolutionary and popular resolve and force. "Operation Production" and the "Shack" campaign were crushed and destroyed. Thousands of Frelimo soldiers were killed, wounded, or captured by our heroic combatants. Mercenaries from foreign armies who had come to save Machel also tasted defeat. They have come to know the same fate.

Two important and extensive operations that we launched, "Red August" and "Black September," achieved resounding success.

In 1983, hundreds of enemy positions or bases were attacked. Many dozens of them were destroyed, and many others were actually captured. District capitals came under our control. Russian exploiters and those of other nationalities were taken prisoner. Economic targets which were vital to the survival of the regime were destroyed. The transportation network throughout almost the entire country has been disrupted and is under our control. Frelimo almost does not move nor dare to come out of its positions.

In the political field we carried out a reshuffle and a notable development of our infrastructure. Exiles, students, and intellectual cadres at home and abroad joined us, thus greatly increasing the number of people sharing the same ideals of freedom. Important meetings of senior political and military cadres took place in March and November 1983 in Geneva, Switzerland. This consolidated our unity, opened new fields of operation, and broadened our political scope. Visits to Europe and throughout Africa have proved to be extremely fruitful. They brought us support from an increasing number of moderate, democratic, and anticommunist countries and organizations.

In 1984 we can already announce that our combatants will achieve new successes. The provinces of Niassa and Cape Delgado will be transformed into complete operational areas. In the south our guerrillas have so far only been putting pressure on the capital, Maputo. In 1984 we are not only going to put pressure on Maputo, we are also going to encircle it. It is going to be completely besieged and isolated by our forces from the rest of the country. Today we are already operating along the main national highway and we are barely a few dozen kilometers from the city. Within the next few months all the roads — all the routes which link the country to the capital — will be taken or controlled by our forces. The encirclement and isolation will be total. Maputo will not survive for long.

If Machel is not prepared to admit to the immense force of the people, our rockets and heavy weapons captured from his troops will hit barracks and his hideout in Maputo itself. This will then make him realize that he cannot stamp out hunger with weapons, nor by robbing, humiliating, exploiting, or oppressing a whole people who are politically aware and determined.

In 1984 we will pay a great deal of attention to the training of our political economic, administrative, and management cadres and others. Victory is drawing nearer and we have a whole country to build. The year 1984 will be the one in which the final and decisive advance toward the people's victory, and Frelimo's defeat, will occur. I wish all 12 million true Mozambicans a good year in 1984.

SOUTH AFRICA

USSR Seen Warning RSA Against Angolan Overthrow

MB032026 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1950 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Pretoria, Jan 3, SAPA — The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, was still not available tonight for comment on reports today that the Soviet Union had warned South Africa it would not tolerate the overthrow of Angola's government by South African-supported insurgents.

A spokesman for Mr Botha's department said in Pretoria tonight that the minister was 'still not available' for comment.

According to the reports, the Russians had said they would be forced to respond should the rebel Angolan movement, UNITA, continue to put pressure on the Luanda government.

The Soviet warning was said to have been passed to the South African ambassador to the UN, Mr Kurt von Schirnding.

Confirmation of this warning could not be obtained from the South African authorities during the day.

Envoy Denies Receiving Warning

MB040532 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The South African ambassador to the United States, Dr Brand Fourie, says reports that Soviet diplomats in Washington warned him that the Soviet Union would be forced to intervene if the UNITA movement overthrew the government in Angola are totally untrue. Our representative in Washington approached Dr Fourie about a report in the London newspaper *THE GUARDIAN* that the Soviet Union had warned South Africa that is would not tolerate the overthrow of the pro-Marxist Angolan Government by South African-backed insurgents.

Minister Discusses Constitution's Implementation

MB020902 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, says 1984 will, to a large extent, be the year for the implementation of the new constitution. Speaking in a radio program on the year ahead, Mr Heunis said that he saw the constitution as a challenge for the people of South Africa. It could succeed only if the climate for cooperation were well established. He believed that there were enough people who wanted to make a success of the constitution, and in all his time in public life he had not experienced the goodwill that now existed between the various racial groups in this country. Mr Heunis said it was now up to the colored and the Indian communities to decide whether they would hold referenda or elections on the question of their participation in the new dispensation. At this stage it appeared that both groups would opt for elections, which will probably be held in the first 6 months of this year.

In terms of the constitution, it was necessary for the newly constituted Parliament to convene within 30 days of such elections. He said this meant that the new legislative body could meet in the third quarter of this year.

ZAMBIA

PRC Interpreter in Lusaka Defects to Taiwan

OW310801 Taipei International Service in English 0100 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] According to authoritative sources in Taipei, an interpreter with the Chinese communist embassy in Zambia has defected to freedom and come to the Republic of China.

Mr (Tai Kang) was the first Chinese communist employee working with a Chinese communist embassy abroad to defect to the free world.

The sources said that (Tai's) defection shows that, aside from the large groups of students the Chinese communists sent to foreign lands to pursue further study, even personnel in their diplomatic service, who have been considered the most reliable ones, are now cherishing freedom.

Mr (Tai), 25, is a native of Anhui Province and is presently working [as heard] as an interpreter with the Economic Council of the Chinese communists' embassy in Zambia. He said in Taipei that he was completely disappointed with Deng Xiaoping after his rise to power and showed absolutely no sign of change. [sentence as heard]

(Tai) visited President Ku Cheng-kang of the Free Chian Relief Association on Saturday morning and will hold a press conference later.

ZIMBABWE

Prime Minister Announces Cabinet Reshuffle

MB031955 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, today announced a cabinet reshuffle and the restructuring of a number of ministries.

Comrade Herbert Ushewokunze now heads the Ministry of Transport, which now combines with the Ministry of Roads and Road Traffic. Comrade Simba Mubako is now minister of home affairs, and Comrade Eddison Zvobgo heads the combined Ministry of Justice, Legal, and Parliamentary affairs. Comrade Frederick Shava now heads the merged Ministry of Labor, Manpower Planning, and Social Welfare. The Ministry of Industry and Energy Development has been split in two, and there will now be a Ministry of Industry and Technology, which will come under the prime minister but with the former minister of labor and social services, Comrade Kumbirai Kangai, as minister of state. Energy now combines with water resources and development to constitute the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and Development, to be under the deputy prime minister, with Comrade Cephas Msipa as minister of state responsible for water resources and development.

Comrade Oliver Munyaradzi leaves the Health Ministry to be minister of state responsible for energy resources and development. Comrade Maurice Nyamgumbo has been moved from mines to minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for political affairs and provincial development coordination. His former post goes to Comrade Callistus Ndlovu, former minister of construction. Comrade Simbarashe Mubengegwe heads the new Ministry of Construction and National Housing. Comrade Sydney Sekeremayi becomes minister of health, and Comrade Ernest Kadungura leaves youth, sport, and recreation to become minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for defense.

The following become ministers without portfolio: Comrade Farai Masango, former minister of transport, and Comrade Daniel Ngwenya, formerly of roads and road traffic.

Comrade Simba Makoni now heads the Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Culture, as the culture aspect has been removed from education.

The following have been appointed deputy ministers of the restructured ministries: Comrade Nelson Mawema, Ministry of Transport; Comrade Amos Midzi, youth, sport, and culture; Comrades (John Ngwenya) and Robson Manyika, labor, manpower planning, and social welfare; Comrade Tarisayi Ziyambi, justice, legal, and parliamentary affairs; Comrades (Grafton Ziyengi) and (Robert Marere), construction and national housing; Comrade Chimbidzai Sanyangare, deputy minister of mines.

The following deputy ministers have been dropped: Comrade Albert Taderera as deputy minister of national resources and tourism; Comrade George Iutamhiri as depty minister of youth, sport, and recreation; Comrade Alexio Mudzingwa as deputy minister of home affairs; Comrade Joseph Kaparadza as deputy minister of water resources and development; Comrade Mudomeni Chivende as deputy minister of housing; Comrade Bishop Dhube as deputy minister of community development and women's affairs; Comrade Vzikamai Mavhaire as deputy minister of industry and energy development. Comrade Moses Mvenge will be appointed to another nonministerial post soon, possibly as an ambassador, and no one will replace him as deputy minister of national supplies.

The prime minister also said the government will soon announce the creation of provincial structures to be headed possibly by provincial governors. Some of the persons who have been dropped as ministers or deputy ministers will be appointed to posts in the envisaged provincial setup.

Provincial Administrations Created

MB040721 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says the government will soon announce the creation of provincial structures to be headed possibly by provincial governors. Comrade Mugabe made the remark yesterday when he announced the government reshuffle and the restructuring of a number of ministries. Some of the ministers and deputy ministers who have

been dropped in the reshuffle will be appointed to posts in the envisaged provincial setup. The provincial governors will head the central government's programs in each province with an undersecretary serving as provincial administrator. A bill is being drafted, or has just been drafted, which would give effect to the restructuring of the provinces following the restructuring of district administration.

Minister Discusses Tribalism, One-Party State
MB021208 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The minister of legal and parliamentary affairs, Comrade Edison Zvogbo, says the government (?under) ZANU-PF will not allow the country to be destroyed on the altar of tribalism.

Speaking in Harare last night, Comrade Zvogbo said the question of a one-party state is not (?an ideological) question, but a practical one. Referring to the so-called democracy in the Free World, Comrade Zvogbo said the adoption by Nigeria of an American type of constitution is not [word indistinct] and, as history has shown, when put to the test it has failed.

The minister said the coup in Nigeria should be something for Zimbabweans to think about. Comrade Zvogbo also urged multinational companies to become partners of development with the government.